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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Ten Police Officers Enter Jericho Amid Riots

TA1105112394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Ten Palestinian police officers entered Jericho today via the Allenby Bridge. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the officers are slated to take over the local police station today. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the area ordered the soldiers to evacuate the hundreds of residents who waited for the policemen in the city square and to close the shops in the city. A riot erupted in the area, and IDF officers forcefully evacuated correspondents and journalists, including a Qol Yisra'el crew. Three officers dragged Qol Yisra'el's correspondent for about 20 meters, and shouted and threatened him with loaded guns, causing him slight bruises. The residents of Jericho started to riot, forcing IDF officers to disperse them with rubber bullets.

Police Deployment To 'Begin in Earnest' 13 May

JN1205103794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 May 94 p 10

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—The nearly 800 Palestinian policemen camped near the King Husayn Bridge will begin their entry to the occupied West Bank town of Jericho on Thursday [12 May], four days after the first units arrived there, Palestine Liberation Organnisation (PLO) officials said Wednesday.

They said negotiations between PLO and Israeli officials in the occupied territories as well as contacts between the Israeli government and the PLO leadership in Tunis had led to an understanding that the deployment could begin Thursday.

One of the key preconditions, according to reports from occupied Jerusalem and Tunis, is that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announce his autonomy cabinet which will run the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho in the initial phase of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement signed in Washington.

As the first concrete step towards the deployment, several senior officials from the police force, drawn from units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) based in Jordan and Iraq, entered Jericho on Wednesday to inspect areas designated for the police force to take up positions, the PLO officials said. They returned to the East Bank later in the day.

"We expect the deployment to begin in earnest on Friday," said a PLO official. "An advance unit of a few officers and men will enter on Thursday, but the actual entry will formally begin 24 hours later."

Brigadier Haj Isma'il Jabr, commander-designate of Jericho, said "a platoon of my forces will be allowed into Jericho at an early hour Thursday morning." A platoon consists of 50 men.

"A second batch of approximately 300 men will be allowed into Jericho Thursday afternoon to be followed by nearly 400 men on Friday," Brig. Jabr told the Associated Press.

Brig. Isma'il blamed the four-day delay in the entry into Jericho on technical problems—primarily that some of the men did not possess travel documents.

"The main problem was because some of the policemen do not have any travel documents, such as passports or identification cards," he said.

He refused to disclose their number or how the problem was solved.

But a security source,quoted by the AP, estimated the number at 100 and said the Kingdom had agreed to provide them with Jordanian passports.

Highly-placed PLO sources described the delay as a tactic by the Israelis. "They want to tell us that nothing has changed by the peace agreement and they are still in control," said one source.

"Keeping the force camped out near the bridge under international media limelight is their way of telling us that they still call the shots," said the source. [passage omitted]

Second Group of Palestinian Police Enter Gaza

NC1105165894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1534 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 11 May (MENA)—A second group of 150 members of the Palestinian National Security Forces entered the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing point today.

Colonel Fawzi Zaqzuq, commander of the contingent, said it is part of the Palestinian 'Ayn Jalut Forces, which was stationed in Egypt. In addition to enlisted men, it includes several officers of various ranks and some noncommissioned officers.

He said today's contingent complements the group that entered yesterday. He explained that their weapons and equipment arrived in Gaza earlier.

Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, commander of the 'Ayn Jalut Forces, said that the weapons on hand are sufficient for sentry purposes and to maintain order in the Palestinian streets. He said that the first groups to arrive will assume their positions and carry out a temporary deployment until the remaining forces arrive and take over overall authority for security in the area.

Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahhab said that the Palestinian forces are ready to begin their duties in the autonomy areas, pointing out that 2,000 policemen are ready to enter immediately if Israel agrees.

He noted that all the Palestinian people are waiting for the arrival of their national forces and will welcome their presence regardless of any political differences among various factions.

Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahhab remarked, however, that the technical capabilities and equipment of the Palestinian police are still very poor because no grants or aid have been received yet from the countries that announced plans to send aid. He said the United States has sent 200 vehicles as a gift, but they are not equipped as police cars.

Police Arrive in Egypt From Sudan En Route to Gaza

NC1105213194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—Some 256 Palestinian policemen arrrived in Cairo this evening from Port Sudan aboard an Egyptian airbus 300 en route for Rafah. The policemen boarded seven tourist buses from the airplanes and headed directly to Rafah after ending passport checks and entry procedures aboard the same plane.

Fatah Official: Police To Collect Weapons in Gaza

TA1105145294 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 May 94 p 1

[Text] Gaza—Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a member of Fatah's supreme authority, has stressed that the Palestinian police force will collect weapons in accordance with a national agreement between all Palestinian factions and forces.

Widespread chaos in the security realm has been witnessed in recent days. The possession of weapons and their use against people, with or without reason, have become a phenomenon of concern to the Palestinian residents in the Gaza Strip. Last week's shootings led to the death of more than six residents, including children.

'Abd-al-Raziq emphasized that for some time now, the Palestinian national forces have been conducting a national dialogue on the issue of disarming all forces.

'Abd-al-Raziq added: We are facing a great challenge and a greater test. As Palestinians, we can flourish and succeed. The national interest will govern relations on this and other issues.

Officials on Entry of Police, Passport Use

NC1105163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 11 May (MENA)—Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian National Security Forces, has announced that the first group of these forces entered the Gaza Strip yesterday via the Egyptian border crossing point at Rafah. He added that 7,000 Palestinian policemen will enter Gaza over the next three weeks, including the 'Ayn Jalut Forces from Egypt, the forces now in Yemen who will travel via Saudi Arabia, and later the forces currently stationed in Libya and Sudan.

He explained that at the same time the Badr Forces, currently in Jordan, and al-Aqsa Forces, currently in Iraq, will enter the West Bank via the Allenby Bridge, where they will join 2,000 policemen already residing in Gaza and Jericho.

The director general of the Palestinian National Security Forces affirmed that there is a sufficient number of policemen involved to deploy them in the autonomy area and maintain security there. He noted, however, that the Palestinian police apparatus needs international assistance to cover the cost of equipment.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that the role of these policemen is to maintain peace and order, guarantee democratic freedoms, and protect people of all political affiliations, taking into account the need to use methods of persuasion, discussion, dialogue, and democracy.

Marwan Kanafani, official spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, announced that several Palestinian, Israeli, Egyptian, and Jordanian joint committees are discussing the return of the Palestinians who left their homes after the 1967 war, as outlined in the Oslo Agreement.

Kanafani urged that all Palestinian detainees, regardless of their political affiliations or whether they support or oppose the autonomy agreement, be released. He called for the repatriation of all Palestinian deportees.

He pointed out that a Palestinian passport will be issued to every citizen to be used when entering of leaving the country.

Kanafani explained that the delay in the entry of some Palestinian police forces was caused by the Yemeni civil war, the air blockade of Libya, and several procedural problems connected with the size of the forces, their equipment and weapons, and the need to sort out all political, military, financial, and administrative arrangements pertaining to the deployment of these forces. He said many of these problems had been solved with the help of the Egyptian brothers. He urged all Arab countries to facilitate transportation for these forces.

He added that the families of the Palestinian policemen will enter the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho in several stages after this issue is discussed with the Israeli authorities and after amenities such as housing and schools are provided for them.

Israel To Allow 1,000 PLO Personnel Into Gaza, Jericho

TA1105172294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have said that Israel has agreed to allow 1,000 PLO personnel from Tunisia into the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area; however, Israel has not set a date for this yet.

In a separate development, security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the security authorities have given permission to the preemptive security force, led by Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, to enter Jericho on 17 May. The vanguard of this force, comprising 20 persons, has been permitted to bring in light arms. This force is to make preparations for Yasir 'Arafat's imminent arrival in Jericho.

'Arafat Nominates 5 to Palestinian Authority

NC1105210794 Paris AFP in English 2023 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 11 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has nominated five leading figures from the occupied territories to the 25-member Palestinian Authority due to take over in Gaza and Jericho, the PLO's chief autonomy negotiator said here Wednesday [11 May].

Nabil Sha'th named the five as:

- Zakariya al-Agha, a doctor and head of 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction in the occupied Gaza Strip,
- Furayh Abu-Middayn, president of the Gaza Bar Association and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the autonomy talks with Israel,
- Riyad al-Za'nun, a doctor and head of the higher health council in the Gaza Strip,
- Ilyas Furayj, mayor of Bethlehem in the West Bank,
- 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, a Palestinian deportee who returned to the occupied territories.

Earlier a source at PLO headquarters in Tunis said Zakariya al-Agha would be put in charge of Gaza and autonomy negotiator Jamil al-Tarifi would take charge of Jericho.

In Cairo, Palestinian officials said Sha'th had also been nominated to the authority, but Sha'th refused to comment when asked to confirm the report.

Yasir 'Amr, a member of the PLO executive committee, said Tuesday the Palestinian Authority would consist of 15 figures from the occupied territories and 10 from the Palestinian diaspora.

'Arafat, who is due to head the authority, will resume discussions on its composition once he returns from South Africa, where he attended the swearing-in of President Nelson Mandela.

The PLO has accused Israel of linking the deployment of Palestinian policemen in Gaza and Jericho to the formation of the team.

"I'm awaiting from the other side honest implementation of what has been agreed upon. It is not the case," 'Arafat told Israeli television from South Africa.

'Arafat, Castro Hold Talks in Pretoria

LD1105183694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met the Cuban president, comrade Fidel Castro, in Pretoria yesterday evening.

During the meeting, recent developments with regard to the Palestinian cause were discussed. President 'Arafat gave a detailed explanation of the developments in the peace process.

President Castro expressed his full support for the great efforts made by President 'Arafat and his brothers at the PLO Executive Committee to recover the Palestinian people's rights under these conditions. He stressed that peace, like war, required courage, pointing out that the Palestinian people's great sacrifices have been crowned with this victory, which is the way to full independence.

The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying President 'Arafat and by the Cuban foreign minister.

Hamas Official Reaffirms Commitment to Jihad Action

PM1105153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Committed to a Strategy of Jihad Action; the Command in the Occupied Territory Determines Its Circumstances"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas has reaffirmed its full and irrevocable commitment to its strategy of jihad action. A senior Hamas official has stated that the movement's military command in the occupied territories decides and determines the method, time, and place of such action.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the official said that "Hamas is determined more than ever before to continue the jihad and not to recognize the state of the Zionist entity, awaiting the success of Arab and Islamic awakening."

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, disclosed the results of the recent meetings in Damascus of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] opposed to the peace process. He said that "the main issue discussed by the conferees in Damascus was the question of drawing a suitable mechanism for aborting the Cairo agreement by

nonviolent means, particularly as the circle of Palestinian opposition forces is now larger because many have abandoned the Madrid conference dreams which were translated into bitter facts in the Cairo agreement."

He said that "the Palestinian people's conviction that what was on offer was insignificant will be reinforced when they see the bitter facts on the ground when the Cairo agreement is implemented and when they discover that it is no more than a federation with the Zionist entity as confirmed in the 400 pages of the agreement in their political, security, economic, and civilian aspects."

He also said: Hamas representative 'Imad al-'Alami briefed the APF representatives on the latest developments, especially the Zionist and U.S. pressures to which the movement was subjected in some areas and also the dimensions and essence of the agreement reached between the Fatah Hawks and al-Qassam Battalions in Gaza. He explained that it was no more than a field agreement which did not rise to the level of political agreement because Hamas' declared position on the agreement is still the same.

The official also said that Hamas made a point of "explaining to the Palestinian opposition groups the circumstances of the political initiative announced by Hamas Political Bureau Chairman Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, which attracted media attention in recent weeks. It said that Hamas is committed to its strategy of insisting on every inch of Palestinian territory, and that it is committed in principle, politically, and nationally not to negotiate with, have peace with, or recognize Israel...and that Hamas' initiative was a mechanism presented to public opinion because Hamas does not operate in a vacuum and has a phased concept linked to its strategic concept. He stressed that Hamas is for the liberation of all Palestine but "we did not say that that would be achieved in one go because that would be a prevarication, realistically and historically."

Islamic Movement To Join Nabulus Municipality

TA1105151694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 May 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by Muhammad Daraghmah]

[Excerpt] Nabulus—Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, chairman of the League of Palestinian Ulema and one of the most prominent Islamic figures in Nabulus, has said that the Islamic Movement in Nabulus has no objection to participating in a temporary municipal council, headed by Attorney Bassam al-Shak'ah, to run the municipality's affairs and implement stalled vital projects.

Shaykh Baytawi disclosed that various national and Islamic forces and institutions in the city have been holding consultations on forming a municipal council. He noted that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was the only front to reject such a council and adhere to the option of elections. [passage omitted]

APF Rejects Resettlement, Asks Lebanon for Help

JN1105194394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] Central Command has held a meeting in the presence of the representatives of this alliance in Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the serious repercussions the Cairo agreement will have on the Palestinians in the diaspora.

A statement issued by the conferees emphasized that this agreement endangers the status of the diaspora Palestinians, particularly in the camps in Lebanon. In this respect, the secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions called on the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces to enhance the cohesion and the unity of blood enshrined by the Lebanese and Palestinian people, and to defend the Palestinian people's right to repatriation. In their message to the Lebanese Government, the factions reiterated their rejection of resettlement in Lebanon. The 10 factions said they hope the Lebanese Government will help the Palestinian people in Lebanon solve the problems they face, treat Palestinians as equals with the Lebanese concerning job opportunities, and reconstruct the camps after the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] reduced its aid to these camps. The factions called on UNRWA to continue its task of providing various services to the Palestinian people.

Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] sources said other meetings will be held in Lebanon between the 10 factions, the Lebanese Government, and UNRWA representatives to tackle these issues.

Algeria

Prime Minister on Transitional Council, Early Elections

LD1105212494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] In a statement to Channel 3 of Algiers radio, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi answered a number of questions on various topics such as the national economic and social council, which he described as a step forward. The prime minister stated that the National Transitional Council will be installed soon and that sufficient time has been given to all parties to consider the issue of participating in the council.

Regarding the priorities of his government's agenda, Mr. Sifi stressed three points: economic stimulation, the strengthening of the state's institutions, and national solidarity.

In his reply to a question on the possibility of calling early elections before the end of the transitional period, the prime minister said that the matter depends mainly on the existence of stable conditions.

On the agreement with the IMF, which he preferred to call the Algerian restructuring program, which was accepted by the IMF, the prime minister said that it has positive and negative effects and that we should wait for the talks with the Paris Club and the duration of the debt rescheduling period. He added that there is a plan to help low-income social classes.

Regarding Algeria's educational system, the prime minister expressed hope that it would be changed from within the regime itself with the participation of the administration, staff, and parents.

In conclusion, the prime minister said that he prefers a policy of consultation with the administration and all parties.

Security Services Communique: 18 'Terrorists' 'Liquidated'

LD1105211494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] A communique issued by the security services said that it liquidated 18 terrorists and arrested another between Sunday, 8 May, and Tuesday, 10 May

'Sources' on Activities of Former President, FIS

PM1105105494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 May 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Ben Bella Completes His Mediation Between Authorities and Salvation Front in Washington"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Reliable sources in Algiers have said that former President Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy, has been in Washington for a week and that he met with senators and Western and Algerian figures close to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. En route to the United States, Ben Bella stopped over in London, where he met with Arab and foreign figures who encouraged him to mediate between the FIS and the authorities.

Well-informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that the former president's "secret mission" is represented in continuing contacts with some FIS leaders, which began in Algeria three weeks ago on orders from President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Yemeni Foreign Minister Departs for Amman

NC1205054794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Cairo this evening for Amman after a two-day visit to Cairo during which he met President Husni Mubarak. In a predeparture statement he said he conveyed to President Mubarak a verbal message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in which he explained the ongoing events in Yemen. He said that what is happening in Yemen is a confrontation of the remnants of renegades and secessionists, a confrontation with the participation of all the people, led by their armed forces, which are loyal to constitutional legitimacy. He noted that the new Yemeni defense minister who took the constitutional oath yesterday hails from the southern governorates as does the new naval forces commander.

Basindwah said he believed that the situation in Yemen has been decided and that what is going on will last no more than a day or two at most. He noted that during his meeting with President Mubarak he sensed considerable understanding, noting that the Yemeni people appreciate President Mubarak's great concern for Yemen's security and safety. He noted that he is going to Amman to convey a message to King Husayn of Jordan. His Jordan trip is part of a tour of Arab countries to convey verbal messages from President Salih to Arab leaders.

South Yemen Envoy Briefs Mubarak on Situation

NC1205102694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Salih Abu-Bakr, special envoy to Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, this morning. Abu-Bakr gave the president a full report on developments and military clashes in Yemen. This is part of President Mubarak's efforts to contain the crisis in Yemen.

AL-AHRAM Warns Against 'Interference' in Yemen

NC1205070994 Cairo MENA in English 0615 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 12 (MENA)—"AL-AHRAM" warned, in its editorial today, against playing with fire in Yemen.

South Yemen said Arab elements are fighting alongside north Yemenis, adding that these elements will appear on Aden television screens, the paper said.

This version has several serious implications.

According to this version, troops from an Arab country may be fighting beside the forces of the north along with Arab elements living in Yemen.

The report may, in the meantime, be a call for internationalizing the crisis, the paper added.

In any case there should be a warning against any interference in the Yemeni war in the way reported by the southerners, the paper said.

Rights Group Says Thousands Detained

NC1105155394 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] CAIRO, May 11 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities are holding between 20,000 and 30,000 political prisoners, most of them Moslem fundamentalists, the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation said Wednesday.

Mahmud Qandil, a member of the organisation's board, said it was difficult to have a precise figure because "every day many detainees are arrested or released." The Interior Ministry could not give an exact number, he said, but added that "according to various estimates, the number of political prisoners was between 20,000 and 30,000."

Qandil was presenting a report by a team from the organisation which visited Asyut, the southern region which has seen the worst violence between fundamentalists and the security forces. According to the report nearly two-thirds of the 114 people killed in the violence in the first four months of this year died in Asyut province. It blamed the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) for the murder of a German woman tourist and 29 policemen in the region this year and also said the al-Jama'ah was suspected of killing eight Coptic Christians, including five gunned down in a monastery in March.

However, the organisation also accused the security forces of rounding up daily at least 250 people "indiscriminately" on suspicion of belonging to the al-Jama'ah.

Witnesses quoted in the report said the "excessive or accidental" use of firearms by the police had led to the deaths of innocent people, such as the killing of four people on March 27 who had no connections with the outlawed fundamentalists. The government has launched frequent raids on hideouts used by the Islamic militants, whose two-year violent campaign has badly hit the tourist industry and cost almost 400 lives.

The human rights organisation said the situation was likely to "explode" in the Suhaj and al-Minyah provinces to the north and south of Asyut. It urged the authorities to set up an independent legal commission to investigate killings by the security forces in their battle against the militants.

The report said the violence would only stop when the government respected the law, ensured freedom of speech, changed the education system and stopped certain broadcasts likely to incite sectarian violence.

On Tuesday a senior Egyptian opposition MP, Kamil Khalid, accused unnamed government officials of ordering the killing of a lawyer closely associated with the militants. Khalid said 'Abd-al-Harith Madani died after having tried to give him proposals for ending the conflict between the militants and the security forces.

The Egyptian Bar Association earlier accused the security forces of torturing Madani to death in custody.

Sudan

Government To Evacuate Citizens From Yemen

EA1105205894 Nairobi KNA in English 1755 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 May (KNA/PANA)—Alarmed over the fate of tens of thousands of its nationals working in embattled Yemen, the Sudanese Government has decided to evacuate those of them who wish to return home.

The Commission for the Affairs of Sudanese Working Abroad, Wednesday [11 May] urged the Sudanese living in Yemen who might wish to be evacuated, to proceed to a Sudanese vessel now anchored at the north Yemeni al-Hudaydah port on the Red Sea. The commission said in a statement issued in Khartoum that the national airline, Sudanair, would arrange a flight to the north Yemeni capital, Sanaa, on 14 May to evacuate Sudanese. It urged those wishing to take the flight back home to register their names at the Embassy of Sudan in Sanaa.

No arrangements were announced for the evacuation of Sudanese from Aden, capital of south Yemen. The commission said it had set up a task force comprising concerned government bodies and opened an operations room to accomplish the job.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese nationals were employed in the two Yemens as doctors, teachers, workers and journalists, among other professions. [passage omitted]

Government To Open Embassy in South Africa

EA1205065094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] The state minister at the Foreign Ministry, Archbishop Gabriel Rodge, announced that the Sudanese Embassy in South Africa will be opened next month. Addressing the regular forum of the Foreign Ministry, Archbishop Rodge described his recent tour of southern African states as successful and that the tour realized its objectives of affirming Sudan's firm attitude towards attainment of a peaceful settlement to the southern Sudan question. He said that [word indistinct] Namibian president pledged to President 'Umar al-Bashir, on the sidelines of the celebrations for the swearing-in of Nelson Mandela, to review (?and) strengthen relations between Sudan and Namibia. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Prime Minister Cites 'Lessons,' 'Wounds' of Invasion

PM1105152094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Fahd al-Tayyash: "Shaykh Sa'd Urges Yemenis To Learn From Wounds of Invasion of Kuwait"]

[Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has urged the warring parties in Yemen to "end the fighting, spare the nation's blood, and return to dialogue as a means to resolve the dispute."

In a meeting with a small number of Arab journalists, including AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's, in Bayan Palace yesterday, Shaykh Sa'd said: What is happening in Yemen saddens every Arab. Kuwait will not rejoice to see a northerner taking up arms against his brother in the south, or vice versa, despite the position Yemen adopted during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, namely its failure to condemn the aggression, keeping silent about and helping it, and cooperating with the Iraqi regime.

He added that "Kuwait will not hesitate to issue a statement expressing Kuwait's—the government's and people's—condemnation of brothers taking up arms against one another." He pointed out that Kuwait supports any Gulf or Arab endeavor aimed at resolving the dispute. But as a result of Arab disunion, all endeavors have become weak and are unable to crystallize an executive formula to end Arab disputes.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent stressed "the need to go back a little and learn from the lessons and wounds of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait." He said that "Yemeni citizens are suffering a great deal as a result of the conflict, which is unjustly shedding Arab blood. They need a real stand assuring them that everyone supports them against any aggression." He added: "As a Kuwaiti Arab, I had hoped I would hear such stands, telling us as Kuwaitis and Arabs: You are not alone...we support you...we are against aggression and for the return of legitimacy. I register here the courageous stands adopted by the brothers and friends, especially the position adopted by the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd of Saudi Arabia], whose position was characterized by manhood, courage, and matching words with actions."

Asked about the security situation in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said that "security has been among the government's top priorities since liberation. We will not allow anyone to carry out any action that endangers the homeland's and citizens' security or shakes confidence in the security services' capability under any justification."

He also said that he "shares with the Kuwaitis their security concern over the situation represented in the existence of the Iraqi regime as a source of threat to Kuwaiti security and its unwillingness to implement Resolution 833 stipulating border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq." He stressed that "the brothers' and friends' continued support for the just Kuwaiti demands and their insistence on implementing all UN resolutions reassures the Kuwaiti people and reduces the gravity of the Iraqi threat."

On cooperation between the government and the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Shaykh Sa'd pointed out that "the new formation of the Kuwaiti Government embodies the government's determination to implement its strategy concerning Kuwait's future and to step up cooperation with the National Assembly." He said that "what is being debated in this connection does not reach the point of a dispute. It reflects differing views among the sons of one country. Those in charge of the executive authority and the legislative authority are passengers of one ship called Kuwait, and no one wishes to sink this ship. Everyone wants to lead it to the shore of safety."

The Kuwaiti heir apparent said that his government's conditions for clearing the Arab atmosphere were mentioned in the government's statement, which includes the following:

A. The emphasis on Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

B. The release of the POW's and those held by the Iraqi regime.

He pointed out that "Kuwait is not setting impossible conditions to clear the atmosphere. But before starting to clear the atmosphere, the cause must be eliminated." He said that "Kuwait has begun steps in this connection represented in the tour of the Arab Maghreb states by the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during which he discussed Kuwaiti rights."

Shaykh Sa'd emphasized that "Kuwait has learned numerous lessons from the Iraqi aggression. The scheme was not limited to Kuwait. It was a scenario for an expansionist plan, but God's will aborted it." He said that "we should remember before clearing the atmosphere that the Iraqi aggression still exists. And if the brothers in the Gulf believe—even '25 percent'—that Iraq has no expansionist ambitions, they are completely wrong. Because the Iraqi regime is still working to complete its forces in order to fragment and weaken the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council and then implement its expansionist schemes. The brothers in the Gulf must realize this reality and apply lessons we have all learned from the invasion. The picture of the Kuwait aggression must be clear to all. And we must cooperate to avert danger by unifying our aim, uniting ranks, and joining forces."

He declined to speculate about the Kuwaiti position if Iraq agrees to normalize relations with Israel in return for lifting the international blockade. He said "Kuwait

will deal with new developments as its strategy and known fixed positions supportive of right and peace dictate."

Washington Embassy Denies Paper's Report on Upcoming Visit

LD1105210594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1852 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpts] Washington, 11 May—The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the United States categorically has denied reports by a local U.S. newspaper on the visit of the high-ranking Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to Washington that is scheduled for next week.

The responsible official at the embassy told KUNA today that the newspaper's report, citing sources at the embassy to the effect that the predominant impression is that the Kuwaiti delegation's visit was coming at an unsuitable time and without being preceded by any coordination measures, was "entirely untrue and unrealistic."

The source pointed out that the "intensive program that has been prepared for this visit clearly shows that officials at the U.S. Administration and the Congress welcomed the visit and expressed readiness to meet the delegation. Numerous high-level meetings have been arranged with the leaderships of the Senate and the Congress, in addition to meetings with high-ranking officials in the administration, be it at the White House or the State and Defense Department levels.

The diplomatic official at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington said that the program of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation's visit, headed by Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, includes press and media conferences with the leading U.S. newspapers and media institutions in the capital, Washington. [passage omitted]

He concluded his statement by saying that "all these efforts are undoubtedly at variance with the newspaper's report, which regrettably has not contacted the officials at the embassy who are responsible for this visit to verify the truth of the statements that the newspaper published."

The source said that "the embassy was not aware that any of its members had made statements to any newspaper or any other quarter that were contradictory to what we have said."

Qatar

Amir Briefed on Yemen Events During Call From Salih

JN1205065794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Doha, 11 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, this evening received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the Amir of the State of Qatar was briefed on the latest developments in Yemen. It added that the Amir of Qatar stressed to the Yemeni president his country's concern about restoring stability in Yemen, stopping the fighting among the brothers, and keeping Yemen strong and united in order to maintain its people's gains and achievements.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Phone Call From Yemeni President

LD1105211294 Riyadh SPA in English 1941 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, May 11, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received a telephone call from Yemeni President Lt. General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Tuesday [10 May].

They reviewed bilateral relations and the current developments in Yemen, security in the Gulf region and the mutual interests of the kingdom and the Republic of Yemen.

On Wednesday, visiting Yemeni Chairman of the House of Deputies Sheikh 'Abdullah bin Husayn al-Ahmar and Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani conveyed a message to King Fahd from Lt. General Salih during their audience with the monarch at al- Yamama Palace here.

The audience was attended by Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the special adviser to the monarch Ibrahim al-Anqari and the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom Ghalib 'Ali Jameel [name as received].

Sheikh al-Ahmar and Dr. al-Iryani arrived here last night and were greeted at the airport by al-Anqari and Jameel.

Yemeni Officials Depart Riyadh 11 May

LD1205013194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 May—His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdullah bin Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni parliament, and His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, and the accompanying delegation left Riyadh this evening [11 May] following a visit to the kingdom during which they delivered a message to King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Head of Iranian Pilgrims Calls For Bosnia Day on 15 May

LD1105120994 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Medina, May 11, IRNA—Hajj is the best time to voice support for the Bosnian Muslims and hatred for the Serbs atrocities, said head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri here Tuesday. Speaking to IRNA, Reyshahri said that the hajj season is the best time to set forth the problems of Muslims and to find solutions for them. That is why, he added, May 15 was announced the day for support of Bosnian Muslims.

Reyshahri who is also representative of the leader, said that while the arrogant world has practically given the green light to the racist Serbs to continue their crimes, Muslims are duty-bound to support the resistance of their Muslim brethren. He blasted the international organizations especially the United Nations for their silence and negligence towards Serbs crimes.

Deploring that the Serbs were massacring more Bosnian women, children and men every day due to the connivance of the U.N. and other world bodies, he said the continued arms embargo on Bosnia has made the Muslims defenceless against the criminal Serbs. He called for lifting of the arms sanctions imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to prevent continuation of the bloodshed.

Reyshahri said that the U.N. insistence to continue the arms embargo only indicates the collaboration of the organization and the big powers dominating it with the Serbs.

Criticising the U.N. opposition with the dispatch of peace keeping forces from Islamic countries including Iran to Bosnia, he said that "it has only one meaning and that is the support of the United Nations, the powers dominating over the international body and the person of the secretary general for the criminal Serbs." Stressing that helping the oppressed Bosnians was a religious task, he called on all Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims to assist Muslim Bosnians as much as they could on May 15.

Funds will be set up at the site of Iranian hajj caravans to collect cash donations of the pilgrims in Mecca and Medina.

United Arab Emirates

President Briefed on Events During Call From Yemen's al-Bid

JN1105111294 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] A responsible source has said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president, continues to follow with concern the developments in Yemen and that his highness is holding continuous sincere contacts and exerting genuine intensified efforts concerning the Yemeni crisis with his brothers the Arab leaders, urging Yemeni officials to immediately stop fighting, exercise self-restraint, and avoid more bloodshed among the sons of the one country.

The source added that his highness the president last night received a telephone call from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president of the Yemeni Republic, during which he explained to his highness the latest developments in Yemen.

During the telephone conversation, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan expressed the United Arab Emirates' willingness to continue its mediation to restore stability in Yemen on condition there is an immediate cease-fire and a return to true brotherly dialogue in order to reach a political solution to the Yemeni crisis based on the vision of the Yemeni leadership.

The responsible source added that his highness the president's appeal to the leaders of Yemen truly reflects his highness's concern to prevent the situation in Yemen from becoming a tragedy with dire results and to prepare the atmosphere for dialogue and understanding among the brothers in Yemen. The appeal also reflects his highness's concern that the brothers in Yemen should fully shoulder their national responsibilities, not widen their differences, and to put the interest of the Yemeni people above all interests because history does not (?forgive).

President, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Yemen Situation

JN1105104294 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president, this morning telephoned his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. This telephone call comes within the framework of continuous consultations and praiseworthy efforts to contain the crisis in Yemen.

During their conversation, the two presidents stressed the need to continue intensified efforts to immediately stop the fighting and avoid bloodshed among the sons of the one country as well as the need to return to true brotherly dialogue in order to reach a political solution to the Yemeni crisis based on the vision of the Yemeni leadership.

President, Saudi King Discuss Events

JN1205070294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates, this evening telephoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

During the telephone conversation the two sides discussed the situation in Yemen and the need to end the bloodshed and fighting among the brothers in Yemen.

President Receives Yemen's Oil Minister 11 May

JN1205073994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Al-Jarf, 11 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this evening received Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni minister of oil and mineral resources.

The Yemeni minister briefed the UAE president on the latest developments in Yemen and issues of common concern. During the meeting, His Highness Shaykh Zayid stressed the importance of containing the current crisis and preventing its exacerbation as this will reflect on the future of Yemen and on security and stability in the region.

Yemeni Minister Comments

JN1205074294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 May (WAKH)—Yemeni Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun has announced that his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] comes within a tour that will also take him to Egypt and Syria. In a statement to the Emirates News Agency, WAM, Bin-Husaynun said that during the visit he will convey a message from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al- Bid to His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Yemeni minister denied that the ongoing conflict in Yemen is over oil, noting that oil was discovered in northern and southern Yemen before the unity and that there are big oil reserves in the North and South. He added that oil production projects are proceeding normally in the northern and southern oil fields. However, he said, exploration and drilling stopped at the beginning of the war operations.

Asked if it is possible to continue talks about merger in light of the ongoing war between the North and South, the Yemeni minister said that Aden is now speaking about unity and the accord document [signed in Amman]. He said: What is required is to implement the document in letter and spirit, otherwise nothing else will be accepted by the Yemeni people.

Asked about Sanaa's call for an immediate cease-fire provided that Aden recognizes legitimacy, the Yemeni oil and mineral resources minister said: Aden supports the cease-fire. It has responded to cease-fire calls by some Arab brothers out of its concern to stop Yemeni bloodshed.

Yemen

Dawn Scud Attack Launched 11 May; More Than 23 Killed

JN1105145094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1407 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] In a treacherous and cowardly act that can be committed only by hysterical people who sense that their demise is inevitable and who face the gloomy fate that awaits every murderer, the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Command has fired its destructive long-range Scud missiles against civilian installations and residential quarters in Sanaa and other Yemeni cities in the northern and western governorates. A missile fell on a residential quarter in Sanaa at dawn today, martyring more than 23 citizens, completely demolishing four houses, and damaging others. The bodies of a newly-wed couple, still in the first week of their marriage, were removed from under the rubble.

The masses that arrived on the scene condemned this criminal act that targets the lives of citizens—women, children, and the elderly—and denounced these vindictive actions carried out by the seccessionist clique in the YSP. These show the rancor this clique harbors toward the sons of our people.

Another missile fell on al-Rahidah Hospital the day before yesterday, killing many patients.

All these criminal acts are part of the attempt to undermine our people. However, these acts will only make our people more committed to unity and more insistent on defending it and protecting Constitutional legitimacy, and more determined to rid themselves of killers and murderers who have no qualms.

Casualties Updated to 35

JN1105145994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1334 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ibrahim al-Ruba'i, deputy director of medical services at the military hospital, by an unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Please proceed, Dr. Ibrahim.

[Al-Ruba'i] You are welcome. To begin with, I would like to thank you for your interest in this issue. In fact, what happened last night was a very horrible event. As usual, we sent cars, along with doctors and nurses, for an inspection. At the same time, approximately 35 killed or wounded people were evacuated. This figure includes nine dead children, women, old men, and youths. Naturally, the injuries varied from serious to slight injuries. All are now at the General Military Hospital.

[Correspondent] Dr. Ibrahim: Will there be any future effects from these missiles, or effects on those in the vicinity?

[Al-Ruba'i] Psychological cases do affect people in the surrounding area. These cases differ from one person to another, depending, of course, on individual will. Such cases will be referred to psychiatrists who can diagnose them.

[Correspondent] What about the hospital's capability to treat the wounded people?

[Al-Ruba'i] Praise be to God, there is good capability. There is coordination with the brothers in the Ministry of Health. As soon as we need specialists in some types of surgery, we refer the cases to the [word indistinct] hospital, for example, or to the Republican Hospital, or to Kuwait. However, the opposite can occur. There is a complete [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Praise be to God.

[Al-Ruba'i] Praise be to God. May God grant us success.

[Correspondent] May God grant us success and save us from the catastrophes caused by the gang of apostasy and secession. May he also grant success to, and champion, our Army, the Army of Constitutional legitimacy. Thank you very much, Dr. Ibrahim al- Ruba'i, deputy director of medical services for medical affairs at the military hospital.

[Al-Ruba'i] You are welcome.

'Military Source' Issues Statement

JN1105181794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] A military source today made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of their treacherous, criminal acts and in a hysterical act that can be carried out only by cowardly people who bear a grudge against the people and the homeland, the gang of rebellion and secession after midnight yesterday fired two long-range Scud missiles against civilian installations and residential quarters in the Governorate of Sanaa.

One of the missiles fell in the early hours today on one of the populated quarters in the city of Sanaa. Its explosion destroyed four houses. As a result, 23 people were martyred and 30 others sustained various injuries. Seven other houses were destroyed. An entire family was martyred in this criminal, sinful incident.

The source condemned this cowardly act that targeted the life of citizens and innocent women and children.

The source said these acts of revenge, practiced by the secessionist clique in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party, reflect the extent of the inveterate grudge in the hearts of this clique against the sons of our people. These acts reflect the bitter defeat tasted by this clique.

The source said these criminal acts will only increase our people's cohesion and resolve to score a great success for unity and Constitutional legitimacy.

House Discusses Attack

JN1105131694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session this morning under brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the House chairmanship board. At the beginning of the session, the House listened to and approved the minutes of its previous session. Afterward, the House discussed a number of issues related to developments in the country, particularly the indiscriminate attacks on densely populated urban areas with internationally-banned Scud missiles by the secessionist elements in the Socialist Party's leadership, something which points out its despair, fear, and miscalculation. On this issue, the House approved tasking the human rights and public liberties committee with visiting the houses which were demolished over their (?secure) residents while they were asleep in Sanaa, Ta'izz, and (?other cities) which were hit by the internationally-banned Scud missiles. The committee has been entrusted with preparing a [word indistinct] report on what is going on.

The House tasked the Foreign Relations Committee with discussing the statements issued by a number of parliaments in sisterly Arab states on the situation and developments experienced by our country, and to prepare a draft statement on that issue and submit it to the House for (?approval).

The deputies praised the intensive efforts to distribute the basic food supplies in cities and other [words indistinct]. The House also discussed a number of other issues, and adopted the required measures toward them.

Commentary Decries Action

JN1105124494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O sons of beloved Aden; O sons of proud Yemen: The gang of apostasy and secession, led by the criminal and killer al-Bid, knows quite well that precious Aden is now within the range of the rifles of the forces of unity and legitimacy. However, these forces have noble values and objectives that stem from their concern about all the sons of our people, especially the residents of beloved Aden. This is why these forces would never permit terrorizing the residents of the city of Aden or any other city.

But this treacherous gang that has abandoned all religious and moral values is determined to provoke the

feelings of our people and the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy by striking at residential neighborhoods in the steadfast city of Sanaa with the missiles of treachery and meanness that have claimed the lives of many innocent citizens.

However, the gang of the vile killers will never escape the people's retribution. May God have mercy on the righteous martyrs, the victims of treachery. It is a true promise to the sons of our people to take revenge on the killers and their criminal, cowardly leader al-Bid and all those who advocate secession and apostasy.

Southern Jets Engage Northern Forces

NC1105152494 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpts] Aden, Yemen, May 11 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni jets and artillery pounded rival northern forces Wednesday east of the strategic southern port city of Aden, a correspondent reported.

The heaviest fire was concentrated on the Zinjibar area, about 60 kilometres (36 miles) east of Aden, as well as Ja'ar and Bakis, where the northern al-'Amaliqah brigade is based.

Meanwhile, northern forces were also trying to open up a new front in the Bab al-Mandeb area, about 400 kilometres (248 miles) west of Aden, said Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar, a southerner.

An AFP correspondent reported that southern planes made numerous sorties over Aden. The southern air force is considered stronger than that of the north. [passage omitted]

Some 12,000 northern troops are stationed in Abyan province, east of Aden, analysts say.

Defense Minister Notes Casualties

EA1105190894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Staff Brigadier Haytham Qasim Tahir, the defense minister, affirmed that the retreat of the forces of the al-Ahmar ruling gang and the heavy losses inflicted on them was a logical and natural result, because their soldiers are waging this war against their own will, and they do not realize for which goals they are fighting except defending the interests of the tyrant lackey family. That is why they are fighting with low morale and later they join their brothers in the broad popular base which defends the unity, democracy, and the convention document.

This was mentioned in the important press talk which was given by him [the defense minister] to SAWT AL-UMMAL in its issue tomorrow. He indicated that the number of casualties among the Armed Forces defending the unity and democracy is incredibly few. He indicated to the reports by the mass media about tens of victims of children, elderlies and women, who were attacked by missiles and rockets in their houses as the result of random shelling of peaceful towns and villages and residential apartments by the al-Ahmar ruling gang. The defense minister added that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] does not boast of victory in this war, which was forced on our people and homeland by the al-Ahmar gang in a desperate attempt to hold on to power and control the wealth of our people. He affirmed that the national base is broadening daily and our people are determined to continue to repel the gangs of this adventurous family until the great victory is achieved.

The defense minister added that the YSP had dealt with the merger of the Armed Forces with the sincere intention to build the Yemeni Armed Forces, which stabilize the unity. The defense minister affirmed that the YSP did not bother about the positioning of military units which were deployed from the southern part to the northern part and vice versa, on the eve of 22 May 1990, because the party had the national responsibility towards the homeland which it hoped to share with the People's General Congress.

He added that the subsequent days and circumstances proved that the executive leadership of the al-Ahmar gang had deployed their forces in accordance with intentions to ignite war and control the southern governorates by force, which is not acceptable. The defence minister appreciated the heroes of the Armed Forces and the Yemeni people, who are defending the unity of the people and the homeland.

'Splits' in Northern Military Leadership Noted

EA1105211594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Eyewitnesses report that large fires, the cause of which is still unknown, broke out today in the quarter where the house of Shaykh Abdullah Bin Husayn al-Ahmar, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, chairman of the Yemeni Alliance for Reform, and principal paramount Shaykh of the Hashid clan, is situated in the Interior Ministry building in the (Hasabah) quarter in the capital, Sanaa. Foreign correspondents reported on 10 May that the atmosphere in Sanaa was extremely tense. They noticed military patrols in the streets of Sanaa investigating citizens to establish their identities.

Other reports from Sanaa indicate splits in the military leadership as a result of the battles currently being fought in the country, while many military leaders were dominated by restlessness when the promise made by the president that the fighting would end within three days proved to be wrong. Military sources in Sanaa have referred to the recent irregular military appointments made by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, such as that of 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi as defense minister. This angered the president's paternal cousin, Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, who regards himself as the de facto commander of the Army and feels that he enjoys the

confidence of the family, while there are yet others regarded by the military command as being more competent and more closely connected with the family.

South Says North Trying To Open New Front

NC1205062394 Paris AFP in English 0030 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, May 12 (AFP)—Northern forces in Yemen's civil war claimed Wednesday to have captured a mechanised brigade belonging to the south as southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid demanded northern forces withdraw before a ceasefire.

A northern military statement published here said northern forces had captured all the tanks and artillery of the pro-south 25th mechanised brigade based at Haraz.

An unspecified number of the 1,200 soldiers had surrendered to the northern side, according to the statement published by the SABA' news agency here.

Southern leaders told AFP Wednesday that the north was attempting to open up a new front in the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb region to the west of the main southern town of Aden.

A statement published in Sanaa said northern forces inflicted "heavy losses" on southern troops in the al-'Anad and al-Hutah areas 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Aden.

The northerners were "moving towards their objectives" in the al- Dali' sector.

In the Abyan province, east of Aden, southern forces had attempted to launch a counter-offensive but had been "forced to beat a retreat," the statement said.

At Abyan, a southern spokesman said their forces were concentrating their attacks on northern pockets in the Zinjibar region, on the coast and in Ja'ar and Bakis to the east.

Al-Bid, stripped of the office of vice-president by the northern- dominated parliament last week, said a ceasefire was dependent on a withdrawal of northern forces from the southern part of the country.

"The return of forces to their positions (before the north and south were united in 1990) is an important condition for the end of fighting," al-Bid, looking relaxed and smiling, told reporters at his home overlooking Aden.

"There are no longer southern forces in the north after they were destroyed" by troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, al-Bid said.

He said the war had been "imposed by the dictator 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the family" of parliamentary speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al- Ahmar.

"We did not start the war. It was forced on us. And we continue to resist the invasion forces. We will not allow the al-'Amaliqah (northern) forces to progress one inch towards Aden," he said.

Al-Bid said "to date there is no sign of a political dialogue or mediation," with Salih and ruled out a meeting with the northern leader.

"We sat together with Salih to agree on unity (in 1990) but after the blow he has struck we cannot sit around the same table," he said.

The civil war in Yemen has pitched the socialist south, led by al-Bid, against the conservative Islamic north, four years after the two were united.

Yemeni Muslim fundamentalists "are in league with fundamentalists abroad who are attempting to prevent the Arab nation from getting into the 21st century," al-Bid said Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry: 25th Mechanized Brigade 'Captured'

JN1205053394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 May 94

[Statement by "official military source" at the Defense Ministry in Sanaa—date not given]

[Text] With God's help and support, the heroes of our brave Armed Forces have continued their brave, heroic tasks in their confrontation against the rebellious secessionist forces, which are misled by the criminal and evil separatist elements in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], who are involved in the plot against the people, unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

Our Armed Forces in the southwest axis captured the 25th Mechanized Brigade, stationed in the (?Faz) garrison, and seized all its tanks, artillery, equipment, and vehicles. A number of this brigade's officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers surrendered to the ranks of Constitutional legitimacy who are protecting Yemeni unity. In the same axis, in the al-'Anad-(?al- Hawdah) sector, our Armed Forces inflicted on the forces hostile to legitimacy and Yemeni unity huge losses in equipment and weapons. In the al-Dali'-al-'Anad sector, the Armed Forces continued their advance accomplishing their tasks successfully.

In the Abyan-Aden axis, the forces affiliated with the separatist forces—which are hostile to unity and democracy and which are devoted to serving the illegitimate desires of the members of the bloody gang in the YSP leadership—sustained huge losses in equipment, weapons, and vehicles. These forces retreated to rear positions after failing to carry out desperate attacks.

Meanwhile, the heroes in the Armed Forces Air Defense in all axes confronted the air raids carried out by the aircraft of the forces of apostasy, which are hostile to the

people and Constitutional legitimacy, forcing these planes to flee. This made the criminal secessionist forces resort to crazy methods, which reveal their grudge, hysteria, and death throes, by firing a number of missiles at peaceful populated cities and civilian facilities, including the firing of two Scud missiles at Sanaa early yesterday morning. One of these missiles fell in a big residential area. This shows the state of hysteria and cowardliness in which the igniters of the war are living as well as their realization of the fate they will face soon, God willing, now that their treacherous objectives of this war have been aborted. Unity has been entrenched through the blood and sacrifices of our valiant heroes in our Armed Forces and Security Forces and by their great heroism in embodying their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, unity, and democracy. Unity has also been entrenched through the entire people's solidarity with their leadership and their righteous sons in the Armed Forces and Security Forces in the battle aimed at defending life and their great national and popular achievements, championing the loftiest values and pan-Arab and human principles of justice, and at making the rebels, the enemies of people, homeland, legitimacy, and Constitutional institutions taste the consequences of their acts and tyranny, God willing.

God's victory is imminent.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

South, North Claim Military Successes

NC1205101694 Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, May 12 (AFP)—Southern forces in Yemen's civil war shot down three northern warplanes and sank a warship west of the vital port city of Aden, a southern commander announced Thursday.

Colonel 'Ali Qasim Talib, the sacked Yemeni navy chief, told the Aden daily 14 UKTUBAR the northern targets were hit late Wednesday in the Haraz region, near the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Straits on the Red Sea.

Earlier the northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih claimed they had captured a southern mechanised brigade based at Haraz.

A northern military communique quoted by the official news agency SABA' said northern forces had captured all the tanks and artillery of the southern 25th mechanised brigade, and many of the brigade's 1,200 soldiers had surrendered. [passage omitted]

3 Northern Warplanes Shot Down

AB1205100094 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 12 (AFP)—Southern forces in Yemen's civil war shot down three northern warplanes and sank a warship west of the vital port city of Aden, a southern commander announced Thursday [12 May].

Colonel 'Ali Qasim Taleb, the sacked Yemeni Navy chief, told the Aden daily OCTOBER 14 the northern targets were hit late Wednesday in the Kharaz region, near the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Straits on the Red Sea.

Earlier the northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih claimed they had captured a southern mechanised brigade based at Kharaz.

A northern military communique quoted by the official news agency SABA said northern forces had captured all the tanks and artillery of the southern 25th Mechanised Brigade, and many of the brigade's 1,200 soldiers had surrendered.

Southern leaders told AFP Wednesday that the north was attempting to open up a new front in the Bab al-Mandeb Straits area.

Both sides appeared to be heading for a stalemate along the pre-unification border formerly dividing conservative North Yemen and the Marxist south.

Salih's southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid, sacked by the northern-dominated parliament last week, said a ceasefire depended on the withdrawal of northern forces from the south.

"The return of forces to their positions (before unification in May 1990) is an important condition for ending the fighting," al-Bid told reporters at his home overlooking Aden.

A simmering feud between Salih and al-Bid over political and economic reforms boiled over into all-out war a week ago.

Salih on Scud Attack, Offer to 'Secessionist Clique'

JN1105180294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has met with the brother Interior Ministry leaders and officials in charge of security organizations in the Republic. They discussed a number of security issues and the role of the security agencies in bolstering security and providing peace of mind in society, especially in the current delicate circumstances experienced by our country as a result of the war fueled by the rebellious secessionist gang in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

Speaking at the meeting, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council praised the security men's recent efforts to maintain security and citizens' lives and property. In his speech, the brother chairman reviewed the crimes of the rebellious secessionist elements in the YSP against the homeland and the people since the crisis

began on 19 August 1993. He said those elements have dealt with the children of the homeland mercilessly and irresponsibly. He noted that the latest of these practices was last night's heinous crime in which the cowardly criminals indiscriminately fired a missile against innocent, secure citizens, striking one of Sanaa's densely populated districts, resulting in 53 [number as received] casualties. He said: This cowardly, treacherous act will not go unpunished. In war, it would be acceptable to hit military or strategic targets. But when peaceful citizens' homes and civilian targets are hit, verily this is a disgraceful, treacherous act and an odious crime that is contrary to all morals, norms, values, and laws. This crime is evidence of the state of complete bankruptcy and despair that has gripped that criminal secessionist clique in the YSP command. This clique has acted mercilessly towards its own members. How can it have mercy on the homeland and the people?

The brother chairman: I would have preferred that the elements of the al-Bid-led secessionist gang turn themselves in for trial. We will give them a fair trial. Let them choose whoever lawyers they want in order to preserve the lives of the remaining Armed Forces personnel under their control, as well as the innocent citizens. This is the required nationalist stand. We are not against the YSP. We are against the apostate secessionist elements in the YSP command.

The brother chairman added: I call on all officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the Armed and Security Forces who are under the control of the secessionist clique to reject orders in their camps and to pledge loyalty to unity and constitutional legitimacy. I am ready to issue instructions to the Defense Ministry to stop the process of confronting them to give those elements the chance to leave the Port of Aden for Djibouti or anywhere else.

This is better and more honorable than continuing a losing war and shedding more innocent blood. Those who are doing this now will pay a high price and will lose the people. The unionists in the Yemeni Socialist Party should clearly define their position on that criminal gang, rally around unity and Constitutional legitimacy, and reject the decisions of the secessionist gang that decided to launch the war, in order to curb chaos and the shedding of more Yemeni blood, to maintain public security, and to let their behavior set an example. I urge tribal chiefs, social figures, and all citizens to deal with local and internal organizations to maintain security in society.

It is time to end the problems of four years of security chaos and financial and administrative corruption and to start building a modern Yemeni state, a state of law and order, and to impose the state's prestige. It is not a Sanaa, Hadhramaut, Aden, or Abyan republic, but a Yemeni Republic, which we all accept. We take pride in its development within the framework of constant principles, namely, unity and the republican system based on our tolerant Islamic doctrine.

Salih urged the employees of the Interior Ministry and all security organizations to make every effort to maintain public security and punish those who cause chaos or harm. All these elements should be deterred, at a time when we highly appreciate the security mens' activity over the past days.

At the beginning of the meeting, Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil welcomed the brother president and said: We pledge to you that we will stand by you and by legitimacy against all those who have departed from legitimacy and against all acts violating security. Since the very beginning, we, in the Interior Ministry, have been in a state of alert to confront those who tamper with security and exploit the circumstances. The security men are standing in one rank along with their brothers in the Armed Forces, and feel that the security battle completes the true battle. We are responsible before you for citizens' security and safety. We promise you that we will continue to epitomize the spirit of unity and national responsibility represented by legitimacy. We beseech God to grant us success in our work and to allow our people to achieve victory and to continue construction and development.

The meeting was attended by Colonel (?Muhsin al-Muski), head of the general authority of meteorology and civil aviation.

Foreign Minister Continues Tour, Outlines Mediation Stance

JN1105185794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Salah Salamah in Cairo on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency Yemeni Foreign Minister Mr. Muhammad Salim Basindwah, you are now in Cairo. Today, you said that the fighting in Yemen between the northern and southern units in the Yemeni Army will end in one day or less. What is the latest information you have on the situation on the ground in Yemen?

[Basindwah] The latest information we have on the situation in Yemen is that the fighting is getting close to Aden and that the forces of Constitutional legitimacy are now in the Dar Sa'd area that is adjacent to the al-Shaykh Uthman quarter in Aden.

I would like to correct one point. The fighting is not between southern and northern forces. Forces born in the southern part of the homeland, as it used to be called in the past, are fighting under the banner of Constitutional legitimacy. It is fighting between the forces of Constitutional legitimacy and the forces of the rebel group under the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] that seeks to fragment unity.

[Salamah] Your excellency, disagreement in Yemen has taken on a hostile and vicious form between the leaders of the southern province and the central leadership in Sanaa. You have rejected Arab mediation. Have you determined on a military settlement of the issue?

[Basindwah] We do not reject any Arab good offices to stop the shedding of blood, on the conditions that Constitutional legitimacy is respected, that the Constitution is the judge, and that the forces controlled by the apostate and rebel gang holding sway over the YSP rejoin Constitutional legitimacy and obey the leadership of legitimate authority under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and the supreme commander of the Armed forces. There are Arab good offices that we value and welcome, on the condition that these good offices take place on the basis of the conditions I have set before you.

[Salamah] Your excellency the minister: Those conditions, which have been set by the central command in the north, are deemed binding on officials in the southern region. In a practical sense, this removes any possibility of an understanding. Is there a possibility of returning to the negotiating table to settle the existing differences?

[Basindwah] Of course, you are aware that the crisis was fabricated nine months ago. Many concessions were offered under pressure to end the crisis. However, the side that fabricated the crisis, which is the YSP command, insisted on continuing the crisis endlessly. People suffered a great deal as a result of the crisis. The situation became unbearable. At last, when some apostate, rebellious, secessionist elements in the YSP command failed to achieve their objective of separation, they again resorted to military means. Thus, they started the fighting. We had to defend ourselves. We did not start the fighting. It was the YSP commanding gang rebelling against Constitutional legitimacy, law, and order that initiated combat and the use of the military card.

I would also like to explain to you on this occasion that Yemen is not two countries or two peoples. Yemen is one country and one people. This is seen in the fact that even under separation, when there was a state in the north and another in the south, we used to describe each state as a part. We did not use the term country or people, or describe any of the two parts. Hence, Yemen's unity, unlike the unity between Egypt and Syria, is a unity of the same people and of two parts of the same country.

[Salamah] Your excellency the minister: Aden sources accuse the leadership in Sanaa of being supported by Iraqi and Sudanese troops in the fighting?

[Basindwah] This is not uncharacteristic of the YSP command, which is used to lying and fabrication. This is seen in the fact that a YSP leader—the former Aden governor, Salih Munassar al- Suhayli—told brother officials in Egypt that a large number of Egyptian al-Jihad organization members had been detained. He asked the Egyptian leadership to ask the legitimate leadership in Sanaa to send him a clear order to extradite those members to the Egyptian consul in Aden. Afterward, Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil sent an official memorandum to the then Aden governor, Salih Munassar al-Suhayli, ordering him to extradite the members of the Egyptian al-Jihad organization whom he claimed to have detained to the Egyptian consul in Aden.

The Egyptian consul in Aden took the memorandum to Brigadier General Salih al-Suhayli. It was later confirmed that Salih Munassar al-Suhayli lied. Proof of this is the fact that al-Suhayli did not hand anything to anyone and that no one from the Jihad organization was with him.

It is said that there are Iraqi and Sudanese elements fighting within the ranks of the forces of legitimacy. This is untrue. We defy the influential and rebelling elements in the YSP leadership to show one of these elements or to prove their allegations.

Influential and renegade elements in the YSP resort to, and circulate, these rumors in order to instigate fraternal and dear Arab states against both Sanaa and the legitimate leadership in the Republic of Yemen.

[Salamah] Your Excellency Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah: In the absence of deputies from the southern areas, the Yemeni House of Representatives in Sanaa took measures to expel and oust senior southern leaders. In your opinion, did the House, which included deputies from the northern areas, represent Constitutional legitimacy when it took these measures?

[Basindwah] Who told you that all the deputies present at the House meetings during which these decisions were made were from the northern governorates? There were deputies who represented constituencies in the northern governorates, and there were deputies belonging to the YSP itself ...

[Salamah, interrupting] Who participated in making these decisions?

[Basindwah] They participated in making these decisions. You can verify this.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the minister: You said Aden is currently besieged. Is there a decision to militarily storm Aden?

[Basindwah] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih fully cares for the safety of all citizens residing in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of the Republic of Yemen and the place that embraced the national movement. Thus, Salih does not plan to storm Aden. He would have the citizens in Aden chase the elements which want to inflict further destruction and havoc on Aden, exactly like what they did in the past.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the minister, the last question is: In light of the ongoing fighting and the aggravating political problems in Yemen, what, in your

opinion, are the prospects available for you now to restore national unity and preserve Yemeni unity as a whole?

[Basindwah] I believe there are among those born in the southern governorates those who can represent these governorates in the authority. They enjoy respect and appreciation. There are unionist elements in the YSP that now must determine their position on their comrades who rebelled and violated unity and Constitutional legitimacy. These elements would enjoy respect, and a dialogue would be held with them, exactly as it was held with all of them in the past.

[Salamah] Thank you, Your Excellency Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah for these statements to Radio Monte Carlo.

[Basindwah] Thank you. I wish you success.

Notes Aden Remarks on Arab Aid

JN1205093594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has stressed that the Yemeni people, with all their national factions and forces, are confronting the secessionist rebellion led by Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] members. In a statement to an INA correspondent in Cairo before heading for Amman, Basindwah said: What is taking place in Yemen is not a civil war as depicted by some people, but a confrontation against the remnants of secessionism and violators of the constitution and legitimacy.

Basindwah said: Now that the separatist cliques have continued with their agentry, fabrication of crises, and igniting the war, the Yemeni people and the constitutional government have decided to confront these cliques to restore security, stability, and legitimacy. He stressed that matters are proceeding in favor of legitimacy and the people, adding that there is no question that they will triumph.

The foreign minister said that the government and people, led by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, appreciate Arab brothers' feelings and concern over unity. He added: However, what is taking place in Yemen is an internal matter. Fighting was imposed on us, so we have no choice but to defend law and unity in the wake of the crisis fabricated by the separatists over the past year.

Regarding the possibility of reaching a cease-fire and holding dialogue, Basindwah said: If these elements do not return to constitutional legitimacy and resort to law, and if the gangs do not abandon their dreams and return to the legitimacy represented by the Constitutional leadership under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, we will continue to uproot them.

Asked about his current Arab tour, Basindwah noted that Yemen hopes that the Arab brothers will understand what is taking place as well as the crisis fabricated by the YSP leaders to strike at Yemeni unity. He stressed that some parties refer to Yemen as South and North for separatist objectives, adding that many members of the current government come from the South, such as the new defense minister, the commander of the Navy, fighters, and commanders.

Basindwah ridiculed the separatists' statements that Arab parties are helping the Yemeni Government in confronting the separatists. He said: We challenge them to prove this. It is not strange to see these rebellious apostate elements making such false statements at the instructions of foreign forces.

Asked about the nature of the Yemen's future political life, Basindwah said: Following the regrettable incidents, Yemen will enter a new phase of stability, democracy, prosperity, legitimacy, and collective participation in the government in accordance with the interests and Constitution of the Republic of Yemen.

Acting Prime Minister Comments on Events

JN1105154794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 May 94

[Statements by Acting Prime Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar at a news conference with correspondents at the Prime Minister's office in Sanaa on 11 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First, I would like to welcome all of you. I am happy with this first meeting in my capacity as the head of the Council of Ministers. Also, since [words indistinct] I have not met with you often. Therefore, this is an opportunity [words indistinct] all of us. I will begin this news conference with an approximately 10- minute introductory statement. Afterward, I will take your questions. We want a dialogue to be established between ourselves and journalists. Statements are not enough. We hope this dialogue will provide a clear picture of what is really going on in Yemen. I do not want to start from the very beginning of the crisis, or the so-called Yemeni crisis. I believe all of you know a great deal about it. However, allow to me to say that the [word indistinct] crisis began many months ago, specifically [words indistinct] the last six-seven months. [passage omitted]

I would like to reiterate what all leaders in Sanaa have said. The crisis was started by members of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau. We distinguish between the YSP and its leadership, or some of its (?leaders). This is because [words indistinct] is rebellion against constitutional legitimacy. In view of this rebellion, and after the first battles took place, the Army of the Republic of Yemen had to play its role and perform its national duty. This Army has played its role. [sentence indistinct]. However, contrary to what has been [word indistinct] here and abroad, the battle is not between the north and south. This is untrue. This is because among the Yemeni Armed Forces fighting today in support of legitimacy and the constitution are many

southern brigades. This statement is supported by the fact that the defense minister, who was appointed two days ago, is from the Abyan region. He is not the only one. There are many southerners among the Armed Forces. In fact, as you know, thousands, or at least hundreds, of our brother troops who are fighting against the official troops join us daily and fight against the other side. This is clear. You and the Information Ministry, God willing, should visit these areas to see for yourselves this [word indistinct].

This is the point I wanted to [word indistinct]. Therefore, it is not a north-south battle, nor even a battle between the General People's Congress and the YSP. Rather, it is between the legislative and Constitutional authority on the one hand and the rebels on the other. Some elements of the (?political bureau rebelled) [words indistinct]. This is the situation [words indistinct].

So, back to Arab mediation. When we were asked about Arab troops being sent to disengage the two armies, our response was that there are not two armies or two countries. Rather, there is one country and one constitutional authority, representing constitutional legitimacy versus rebels. [Words indistinct] discussing troops [words indistinct]. If we want so [word indistinct] this is being observed. I will give an example from Europe. In France, there are some rebels in Corsica. The French Government is fighting them, but there are no international troops disengaging the two sides. The same can be said of Ireland and many other states. If now or in the future something takes place against Egyptian authority [words indistinct] separation in Asyut or elsewhere, will we send troops to disengage them and the Egyptian government? Do we want to send disengagement troops between the Algerian Government and those who represent the opposition, for example? If it happens in the United States that Los Angeles, for example, clashes with the official government or security troops, will disengagement troops be sent there? I believe this is a wrong idea.

Therefore, we support dialogue. We are ready to accept and welcome all mediation, particularly by sisterly states. However, this is on condition that they distinguish between sending troops, and exchanging views and ideas and proposing solutions. The government is fully prepared to discuss them within the framework that has been approved by the entire Yemeni people, which is the constitution, unity, democracy—not only [word indistinct] democracy, but also political, economic, cultural, and information democracy. In this framework, we welcome all mediation—strictly within this framework.

As for [words indistinct], a brother from the chief of staff command will brief you on the situation from a military point of view. I have a long experience in this field. As you perhaps know, I was an official during the events which were called the 70-day siege in Yemen [words indistinct]. Then, I was the minister of economy [word indistinct] and adviser to brother [name indistinct], may God have mercy on his soul, who was a great citizen, a great nationalist, and a great struggler. We have some experience, but it is not part of my responsibility [words indistinct] to give details. However, I can say one thing. We hear international press reports talking about an advance here, a retreat there, and that the media [sentence incomplete as heard]. We want all our military statements in our media to be credible. We do not want to exaggerate. All figures [words indistinct] and the regions in which we are deployed, I hope will be visited by all correspondents. [sentence indistinct]. We are one people. As President 'Ali 'Abdallah said [words indistinct), we differentiate between a rebellious clique from the YSP and the entire people, who are part of us and our (?blood). We are very sad that we have to kill each other. This is a crime [words indistinct] the brothers in the political leadership of the YSP. This is what I wanted to say. Now I will take your questions. Thank you.

Al-'Attas Says Dismissal 'Null,' 'Void'

PM1105103094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Attas Tells AL-HAYAH: My Dismissal Illegal, All My Contacts Aimed at Halting War"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH— Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has told AL-HAYAH that the "decision to dismiss me is null and void and illegal." Al-'Attas was answering a question put to him by AL-HAYAH, which contacted him in the hospital where he is receiving medical treatment in the United States. He said: "All the contacts I have made in the United States are aimed at halting the war. The situation which has emerged is saddening and we have warned of it a lot in the past. It is easy to launch a war, but it is difficult to end it." Asked about the way out, he said: "The way out is to halt the war and return to dialogue in order to implement the Pledge and Accord Document. We have agreed in the past that war is not the way to settle disputes, because it will bring nothing but destruction and tragedies for our people." [passage omitted]

Official on Role of Arab League Delegation in Yemen

NC1105142294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—In a news conference today Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, stated that the primary mission of the Arab League delegation, currently in Sanaa, is to deliver a message to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He explained that the message deals with ideas and views that might help end the fighting in the country and start a dialogue among the Yemeni leaders.

He added that the Arab League delegation to Yemen, headed by Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League

assistant secretary general for military affairs, made an arduous trip from Cairo to Jeddah, overland to Najran and then on to Sanaa. This, he pointed out, illustrates the Arab League's efforts to halt the fighting, end the bloodshed, and preserve Yemeni unity.

He said the Arab League has made persistent efforts to solve the Yemeni crisis, the latest being an emergency Arab League Council meeting which issued a three-point resolution to follow up on the crisis. The first point stresses that the fighting will ruin the achievements that the Yemeni people made over many years and will cause suffering for future Yemeni generations. The second point calls for a dialogue that will maintain Yemeni national unity. The third point calls for keeping the Arab League emergency meeting in session until the crisis is resolved.

Ambassador 'Imran thanked Egypt for initiating the emergency meeting and the Saudi Government for welcoming the arrival of an Arab League delegation and facilitating its travel to Sanaa.

'Imran said the delegation is authorized by the Arab League secretary general and the Arab League Council to make all necessary contacts, basically with the Yemeni Government in Sanaa, to reach a cease-fire in the country.

He added that the delegation will not be restricted and will have full powers to decide which parties it will make contacts with in order to reach a cease-fire and arrange a dialogue. He said the delegation is in constant contact with the Arab League secretary general for consultation on any new developments.

Asked about the failure of a previous Arab League mission to Yemen, 'Imran noted that there are always chances of success or failure but the efforts must not stop. He said: We cannot watch fire ravaging part of the Arab homeland without intervening.

He asserted that the mission of the Arab League delegation is not limited to fact finding but will try to arrange a cease-fire and to persuade the Yemeni leaders to begin a dialogue. He pointed out that the Arab League is not drawing up a solution but is asking the Yemeni leaders to begin a dialogue and reach an agreement.

He continued: If the Pledge and Accord Document can serve this purpose, that is good, but if it needs to be amended, then the matter will be left to the Yemeni leaders. They must find a solution based on domestic circumstances.

Asked about the reported Yemeni rejection of Arab mediation, the Arab League secretary general for political affairs said the Arab League is directly responsible for pan-Arab security, this responsibility being a matter of destiny to it. He added that the Arab League Council, in issuing its recent resolution, expressed a unanimous view of the threats to pan-Arab security.

The Arab League secretary general for political affairs expressed hopes that the delegation will succeed in halting the fighting and maintaining Yemeni unity.

Sanaa Said To Reject PLO Mediation; Fatah Aide Cited

PM1105143794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Sanaa Rejects 'Arafat's Mediation"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sanaa has rejected an offer of mediation made two days ago by the Palestinian leadership in an endeavor to stop the war in Yemen. Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid welcomed the Palestinian offer of mediation, which would have been carried out by Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki, who enjoys excellent relations with the Yemenis, especially in south Yemen where he worked as representative of the Palestinian revolution in Aden several years ago.

That is what Zaki himself said. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he would have left for Yemen had President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih accepted the mediation, but the Yemeni president's announcement three days ago rejecting any Arab or foreign mediation, on the grounds that what was happening in Yemen was an internal affair, prevented him from carrying out the mission entrusted to him by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Sanaa Sets Conditions for Arab Mediation

PM1105145094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr and Muhammad 'Allam: "Sanaa Accepts Arab Mediation, With Conditions"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Sanaa, Aden, Cairo—The war between Yemen's two armies turned yesterday into a war of positions, despite the statements issued by the two sides, which are both claiming advances. Independent sources say that the fighting is now taking place in Abyan Governorate and on the fringes of Lahij Governorate. Efforts to resolve the crisis have now moved to the political level as a result of the military deadlock, as Sanaa has for the first time openly announced its acceptance of Arab mediation, "provided it is based on respect for constitutional legitimacy."

Latest reports received from the Yemeni capital said that fierce fighting is taking place in al-'Anad, some 50 km from Aden.

In the framework of political moves, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, and Development and Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Riyadh yesterday, while Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim

Basindwah went to Cairo. The Arab League has announced its willingness to send a delegation to Sanaa.

Al-Iryani told AL-HAYAH that his country is not turning down any Arab mediation to stop the ongoing fighting in Yemen. He said that "Sanaa is not turning down Arab mediation, but it rejects any military intervention or the dispatch of Arab disengagement forces." He pointed out that "an acceptable mediation must recognize existing constitutional legitimacy in Yemen"—a reference to the necessity to recognize President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's leadership of unified Yemen. Asked whether the Yemeni leadership is willing to engage in a dialogue with the Yemeni Socialist Party leadership in south Yemen, Dr. al-Iryani said: "We are willing to engage in a dialogue with them, provided they recognize constitutional legitimacy, existing constitutional institutions, and a unified command for the Yemeni Army."

He pointed out that "the current problem lies in the existence of two commands for the Yemeni Army, hence two armies in one country." He said that "the ruling leadership in Yemen has no objection to an Arab mediation with the other party to the Yemeni crisis, but within the framework of recognizing the legitimacy of the current ruling executive authority, which was elected in accordance with constitutional foundations in the country." On the dismissal of Prime Minister Dr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Dr. al-Iryani said that the prime minister has not been dismissed. He has been suspended in accordance with Article 111 of the Constitution. He pointed out that "dismissing the government or its head requires legislative measures in the House of Representatives, and the legislature, the House of Representatives, has—as a result of current conditions—authorized the executive authority to take appropriate measures to deter the separatists."

He reemphasized that the "legitimate and constitutional leadership in Sanaa is willing to engage in a dialogue with the other side and to make contacts with it. But we want that side—before anything else—to recognize the existence of a unified leadership for Yemen and the Yemeni Army."

He denied that his statement means a change in the position of the Yemeni leadership in Sanaa, as it—through President 'Ali Salih—had turned down Arab mediation. He said that his government agreed to receive an Arab League delegation, "which is on its way to Sanaa" to hold talks with the legitimate and constitutional leadership. He pointed out that the rejection was of a mediation and dialogue based on the existence of two legitimate leaderships in the country. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau, has said that referring the Yemeni crisis to the Security Council is now left to the states concerned and their assessment of the deteriorating situation and its threat to world security. He pointed out that "military operations have negated the belief that the crisis is an internal affair."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Cairo yesterday, al-Dali urged the Gulf states "to intervene to secure a cease-fire in Yemen," and the brothers in the north "to return to the negotiating table." He accused Arab states of sending elements to fight alongside northern forces.

Al-Dali, who, because of military operations, has been forced to stay in Cairo, welcomed the call by President Mubarak and his Yemeni opposite number, Salih, to halt haphazard attacks on innocent civilians. He stated that the YSP will refer the matter to international and human rights organizations. He said that "the YSP has informed Arab states of the attacks on innocent civilians, urging their leaders to intervene." He added that "northern forces have shelled villages and civilians in al-Dali' area with Howitzers." He stressed that "the YSP will not keep silent. It will refer the matter to the international community and international human rights organizations."

Al-Dali urged the brothers in the north "to stop the bloodshed and return to the negotiating table." He also urged Arab and Gulf states to play a role in ending the crisis. He said: "As the fighting is still continuing, mediation has not been overtaken by events. The Gulf states still have a role to play." He stressed that "with the breakout of fighting, the issue is no longer an internal affair." Foreign influences on military operations "negate the belief that the crisis is purely a Yemeni affair." [passage omitted]

Further on Al-Dali Remarks

NC1105195094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, by Cairo radio correspondent Siham al-Buluk, place and date not given; from "The Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Buluk] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau member, secretary of the YSP's Political and Foreign Relations Department, and envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, we welcome you.

[Al-Dali] Thank you.

[Al-Buluk] Doctor, Yemen has accepted Arab mediation. We know that an Arab League delegation has left for Yemen, seeking to end this conflict which has pained all the Arabs. How much can this mediation influence the crisis?

[Al-Dali] Doubtless the Arab League's mediation and the arrival of an Arab League delegation is joyful news to us. We formerly asked the Arab League and its secretary general, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid for their good offices to end the crisis. I believe that the arrival of an Arab League delegation is a favorable sign that the other side

is willing to accept the League's mediation in this crushing ordeal and continuing attrition on our good land, Yemen.

[Al-Buluk] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, when people heard that Yemen was rejecting Arab mediation, it created widespread frustration and raised questions about the Arab League's role. However, when the mediation was accepted, this provided proof of the League's strength and influential role.

[Al-Dali] This is true. We of the YSP, including Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, expressed a willingness to accept the Arab initiative right from the start. Regrettably the other side, the people in Sanaa, rejected this mediation and hoped to settle the issue militarily. It appears, however, that their military option has run into a dead end. We are now in the second week of fighting without any sign of their professed ability to settle the issue militarily.

[Al-Buluk] We must remember it is a conflict among brothers.

[Al-Dali] Yes, yes, but remember that we are actually fighting each other. It is impractical to deny this. We are two sides fighting each other. We accepted mediation and a cease-fire, not out of fear but to spare Yemeni lives. The other side's subsequent agreement to receive an Arab League delegation is a good sign. We hope that the meeting between the Arab League delegation and the officials in Sanaa will achieve good results.

[Al-Buluk] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, some countries are being accused of being behind what is happening in Yemen. It is said that these countries are fanning the fire of the civil war.

[Al-Dali] Our actions are not in a vacuum, nor are they based on false accusations. What actually happened is that among the captured crew members of downed military aircraft belonging to the north and the prisoners taken in Abyan we found nationals of other Arab countries. One of these prisoners is an officer from another Arab country.

[Al-Buluk] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz, 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the YSP have urged dialogue as a way to end the crisis. In your opinion, how can a dialogue be carried out now that war has erupted?

[Al-Dali] War does not preclude the principle of dialogue. On the contrary, you begin a dialogue to end a war. For this reason, despite the bitterness we feel, the bloodshed, and the arrogant intransigence of the brothers in Sanaa, we are willing to have a dialogue. Actually we fought each other in 1972 and 1979 but the current war is more ferocious.

[Al-Buluk] Especially as Yemen has been united since 1990.

[Al-Dali] Yes, this war is fiercer and bloodier. Nevertheless we are ready to sit down and negotiate.

[Al-Buluk] Do you think that the dialogue could take place in an Arab land other than Yemen?

[Al-Dali] I believe that this could happen. Under the current circumstances, it is impossible to meet on Yemeni soil. But it could be possible to meet in Yemen when circumstances change.

[Al-Buluk] What is the current situation in Yemen now that the war has destroyed almost everything? Can you comment on the ongoing events?

[Al-Dali] It's a tragedy, a big tragedy. It's a big tragedy that will have a grave impact on the next generation. Instead of presenting a united modern Yemen, a Yemen of law and order, a Yemen of stability and democracy to our next generation, we are passing on a Yemen ruled by terrorism, governed by the idea of settling matters through military means, governed by bloodshed and killing, and governed by a desire to annihilate the other side. This is very regrettable.

[Al-Buluk] No doubt you know that President Husni Mubarak made several appeals to the brothers to cease fighting. How do you view the Egyptian mediation in the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-Dali] The Egyptian mediation, particularly the mediation of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, has had a positive effect and has been welcomed by every Yemeni. We rely heavily on the Egyptian role and the mediation of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. We wish this mediation success. We and the YSP will give every possible support to this mediation and the Egyptian role.

[A-Buluk] There is a question asked by every Egyptian citizen and every Arab citizen: Why did this happen in Yemen?

[Al-Dali] Simply and generally speaking because the old power structure wants to maintain its position and old regime and does not want to give a chance to the new generation. The brothers in Sanaa refused to implement the first article in the Pledge and Accord Document, which calls for the arrest of those involved in the assassination of YSP leaders. This led to the failure of implementing the document.

[Al-Buluk interrupting] This document was signed in Jordan in February 1994.

[Al-Dali] Yes. The brothers in Sanaa regrettably miscalculated by liquidating the South Yemeni brigades. It is regrettable to talk about a southern army and a northern army. But in fact the two armies did not unite. They started to liquidate the [southern] brigades that were deployed in the north with the aim of weakening the army of the south so that it could be easily liquidated in an advance toward Aden. It is the same idea and (?impotent) mentality [words indistinct].

[Al-Buluk] Don't you think that the four years that preceded unity were enough to resolve the differences?

[Al-Dali] We tried the impossible in order to end the problems.

[Al-Buluk] We are broadcasting this dialogue and this is your personal viewpoint. We hope that the war in fraternal Yemen will end and that Yemen will again be as happy as it was.

[Al-Dali] This is not my personal viewpoint. Rather it is the YSP viewpoint.

GPC Member Views Crisis, Mediation Efforts

NC1205071694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 12 May 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, member of the People's General Congress, minister of planning and development, and former prime minister, in Riyadh, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, date not given; on the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Concerning the conditions in Yemen and the fierce clashes between northern and southern forces, without pointing the blame at anyone, how can we contain the situation?

[Al-Iryani] I assure you that the northern forces are not alone. Several southern brigades are fighting alongside the northern forces. Other southern brigades have declared their loyalty to the lawful government. The situation will be contained once everyone shows respect for the Constitution and the lawful government and once the Armed Forces obey the orders of the state and their supreme commander.

[Al-Jundi] Some people say that weapons will not achieve a solution and that a political settlement must be brokered.

[Al-Iryani] Of course, all wars end with a political solution, regardless of their outcome. We welcome any political solution in the context of Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces should follow the orders of the state, not those of a party or an insurgent wing of a party.

[Al-Jundi] Concerning a political settlement, do you think that the Yemeni Presidential Council's rejection of any mediation has helped a political solution?

[Al-Iryani] I think this is a distortion. The Presidential Council has not rejected mediation. What it rejected was the internationalization of the crisis, its transformation into an international issue, and the dispatch of Arab or international troops to Yemen to separate the fighters. This is what the president told the House of Representatives. Some people twisted these words to make it seem as if he was rejecting mediation. What we reject is the internationalization of the conflict and its transformation from a conflict between a legitimate government and an insurgent group into a conflict between two states. This is unacceptable for us. It would be so in any other Arab or non-Arab country.

[Al-Jundi] Since we are discussing mediation, yesterday, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah visited Egypt. And you are currently in Saudi Arabia together with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives. Are these visits linked with Egyptian and Saudi mediation?

[Al-Iryani] Two Arab League envoys are about to go to Jizan and Sanaa. As long as there is Arab League mediation, I think that most Arab countries would see this effort as sufficient.

New Heads of Command Structures Named

PM1205094694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 94 p2

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Amman: "Restructuring of the Northern and Southern Commands Paves the Way for a New Phase in the Yemeni War"]

[Excerpts] According to Yemeni military sources, battles raged yesterday in the town of Zinjibar and extended to al-Bayda' Governorate in the north in the areas of al-Kawd and al-'Urqub and all the way to Mukayris. It seems that the northern al-'Amaliqah forces deployed there are drawning their last breath. The northern command had pinned great hopes on them for victory and for the occupation of Aden, and they were considered the pincers in the area to the north of Aden.

As regards the other forces which have been trying to besiege Aden from the north and the west in the Ta'izz-al-Rahidah-Mawiyah axis, they have withdrawn from the borders and from the areas they had occupied to the north of Ta'izz Governorate. [passage omitted]

In the course of the re-formation of the southern command, new appointments have been made in the various sectors as follows:

1. The eastern front (the governorates of Shabwah and Hadramaut): The operations there are supervised by Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, former oil and mineral resources minister and chief of staff in the south.

2. The Abyan-al-Bayda' front is under the command of Abyan Governor Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad.

3. The Kirsh front is under the command of Colonel Qasim Bin-Yahya.

4. The Maqtabah front is under the command of Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, former deputy prime minister who was defense minister before the unity.

5. The Ta'izz and Ibb brigades are under the command of Housing and Planning Minister Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah (Muhsin) and Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar (both members of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]), and Sultan al-Sami'i, the formerly independent deputy.

As regards the northern command, it has been formed as follows:

1. Ahmad Musa'id Husayn (member of the General Committee—the Political Bureau—of the General People's Congress [GPC]): Command of the Shabwah front.

2. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the new defense minister, and Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Husayni: Al-Bayda' command.

All three of them [as published] are former south Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men.

3. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Muhammad Salim Basindwah, Ahmad Faraj, and 'Abdallah al-Qadi: Ta'izz command.

4. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and a group of central areas officers: Ibb command.

5. (Central Security Commander) Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, (Air Force Commander) 'Ali Salih al-Ahmar, (1st Armored Division Commander) 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, and (Information Minister) Hasan al-Lawzi: Sanaa area command. The aim is to purge it of the political parties and others who sympathize with the YSP.

6. 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Ali 'Uthman, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-zayn, and other leadership and staff members: Command of al-Hudaydah front.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained some information about the arrest of a group of Sudanese and Iraqis in Aden and the arrest of 60 members of the extremist Afghan Jihad members in al-Dali'. There is information confirming that Eritrea has admitted into its airports a group of northern civilian planes which were taken to Asmara Airport out of fear that they might have been a target of attack at the airports of Ta'izz, Sanaa, and al-Hudaydah.

Although YSP sources have refused to confirm that Eritrean airports were used in the Yemeni war, some reports say that the southerners bombed Asmara airport after discovering that northern military aircraft had taken off from there.

The reports add that the north paid Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki $20 million for allowing the planes into his country's airport.

Sources close to the Yemeni Defense Ministry have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the southern 'Abbud Brigade, in cooperation with the public in al-Dali' Directorate in the Lahij Governorate, successfully confronted the attack launched by northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih consisting of al-Hamzah Brigade reinforced by selected Republican Guard forces. The Defense Ministry in Aden said the result was a "crushing" defeat for the northern forces which had to retreat.

The sources said that the 'Abbud Brigade's forces, which are under the command of Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, captured 15 tanks and destroyed 10 tanks and a number of vehicles and troop carriers, but the Defense Ministry did not give the human losses on both sides.

Sanaa has not denied that report to close politicians and reporters, who are finding it difficult to contact the outside world and who see Sanaa's silence about these battles of the past two days as an indication that the results were not in its favor.

Sources of the Yemeni Defense Ministry in the south said that four of Sanaa's Russian-made aircraft were shot down as they attacked civilian targets in Aden. Two of the pilots were captured. One of them is an Egyptian Islamic extremist and the other an Iraqi from the Iraqi Air Force. The other two were killed when their two aircraft exploded in mid-air.

The sources attribute the use of Iraqi pilots in the Yemeni war to the weakness of north Yemeni pilots and the warm relations between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Before the outbreak of battles, political and press sources said that a number of Iraqi military experts had arrived in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Damascus, Yemeni military sources said that the planes which bombed Aden were Yemeni planes which took off from military airfields in Eritrea and were flown by Iraqi pilots. It seems that Iraq entered the battle through Eritrea after the latter was paid large sums of money. [passage omitted]

YSP Official Says Civil War To Affect Generations

EA1105210894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the chairman of the board of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], emphasized that those who ran away from implementing the pledge and accord document about which they used to talk a big mouth talk are the ones who plunged Yemen into civil infighting and who set plans for a brutal crime, the effect of which will not end for generations to come.

He clarified in an interview with the Middle East satellite television channel, MBC, that the war imposed on the Yemeni people has levelled the gunpowder, the bullets, and the shells to the heart of the unity and that the unity has been stabbed in the back. Pointing to those who committed this brutal crime, he said that this brutal crime did not only lead to the killing of the citizens in the

peaceful villages and cities but it also directed a stab against the Yemeni people and to its history and future. He said: In this critical situation I call upon ... if we want to preserve something for the future, it is in the interests of Yemen that people are pledged to a logic rather than the logic of war. [sentence as heard] As for some, to put the invasion or the manipulation is the impossible which cannot be done. [sentence as heard] Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man reiterated that he that received reports from the war- mongers must know that they are [word indistinct]. He expressed satisfaction about the good intermediation efforts and said in this connection: Those who reject these intermediation under the illusion of achieving a military victory must wake up from their illusions, which I am afraid will hit them in their strongholds.

[Al-Jundi] What is the purpose of your visit to Riyadh?

[Al-Iryani] To discuss bilateral ties and explain the situation in Yemen.

[Al-Jundi] Reports say that you personally were behind the failure of the meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Salalah in Oman. You reportedly said that the southerners offered proposals that contradict Yemeni unity.

[Al-Iryani] Yes. This remains my opinion. I believe in it.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as chairman of the Presidential Council, can issue a cease-fire order to protect Yemeni unity and, above all, Yemeni blood?

[Al-Iryani] If the Armed Forces obey the authority of the state and the orders of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, then I am sure he will.

[Al-Jundi] The Presidential Council dismissed Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and the defense minister, while the House of Representatives dismissed Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Al-'Attas told the Voice of the Arabs that the decisions were illegitimate and that the House of Representatives and the Presidential Council had no right to carry out such dismissals.

[Al-Iryani] Concerning the prime minister, the defense minister, and the oil minister, they were dismissed on the basis of a clear constitutional provision, namely, Article 111. The House of Representatives did not withdraw confidence from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, but from those who support secession and work against Yemeni unity.

[Al-Jundi] Through your current contacts, is there a glimmer of hope for a settlement and calm in Yemen or will the war continue?

[Al-Iryani] You cannot lose hope. I believe the fighting will not continue long, but that sense and reason will prevail.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Al-Iryani] You are welcome.

Islamic Official Explains 'Real Reasons' for Crisis

NC1105185694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 94 p 8

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Wazir, secretary general of the Yemeni Islamic Unification and Action Movement, by Muna Yasin; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yasin] The Yemeni crisis did not start with the recent events. What are the real reasons for the crisis?

[Al-Wazir] The main reason is the financial and administrative chaos, which began before unity and has continued to aggravate since. There is indiscipline in the expenditure of public funds, and all departments are in disarray. The economic situation is in extremely bad shape. In addition, there is no interest in work, and all parties are pursuing unsound policies. Moreover, the political leadership has failed to make officials abide by the law and work rules and pay attention to public interest, so it has reached the point that personal interests guide the officials. Everyone takes care of his personal interests and ignores the interests of the homeland.

[Yasin] There are people who speak of other reasons. They say that the political leader give high military posts to their relatives and fellow tribesmen.

[Al-Wazir] This is also part of the disorder that prevails in all civilian and military departments.

[Yasin] Is petroleum one of the reasons for the crisis, because every party wants to get that revenue and because they have failed to distribute it to the two parts of the country?

[Al-Wazir] This is totally untrue. The unhealthy malpractices are the main reason. The state's funds are treated as funds that belong to no one.

[Yasin] Certain individuals hint that regional and international circles are playing a role in the incidents and in influencing the fate of unity.

[Al-Wazir] I do not believe this is this case. In fact, if there is any foreign plotting, the influential rival Yemeni factions gave them the opportunity.

[Yasin] How then do you explain Vice President 'Ali Salim al- Bid's tour of the Gulf countries after the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document, a tour which he made without consulting with the Yemeni president?

[Al-Wazir] The situation was bad in Yemen, and the vice president says his tour was designed to improve Yemen's ties with neighboring countries. Prior consultation was not possible at the time because differences had not yet been settled.

[Yasin] Do you believe that this tour was normal behavior since it came directly after the signing of the Document?

[Al-Wazir] The vice president has given his justifications, which show concern for Yemen's ties with its neighbors.

[Yasin] Mystery surrounds the U.S. role as a mediator in the Yemeni crisis and also Washington's position on Yemeni unity. How do you view this role?

[Al-Wazir] Many people say that the United States is not opposed to Yemen's unity because it wants stability in Yemen. They say it wants this to promote stability and quiet in the region as a whole, to guarantee the continued flow of oil and because Yemen can be used as an alternative oil shipping point if problems recur in the Gulf.

[Yasin] Certain parties propose a confederation as an alternative to a complete merger and as a way out of the crisis. What do you think?

[Al-Wazir] This issue takes us back to the question of Yemeni society and whether unity is feasible for it. I maintain that there is no society where unity is more feasible as for the Yemenis. This society does not have the problem of any minorities, whether religious, ethnic, or linguistic. However, historical experience has shown that no one area can rule the others and no one individual can dominate all others. In other words, when there is a central government, fragmentation and secession occur. Retaining local rule in certain aspects would guarantee the continuation and success of unity. Therefore, local elections, for example, are considered to be an excellent thing by the Yemeni president, who approved them; all that remains is to implement them. But in my view, local elections would bolster unity; and this does not mean federalism.

[Yasin] This clause is outlined in the Pledge and Accord Document, but it was not implemented.

[Al-Wazir] It is funny that every party claims it supports the Document and accuses the other party of refusing to implement it. Only one part of the Document has not been implemented. I believe that the Yemeni president is capable, understanding, and flexible. If he wants to end the crisis he can do so, as he has the finesse and flexibility. By using his strong position he can steer things toward implementation of the Document.

[Yasin] But the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is asking for guarantees before implementing the Document. What are these guarantees and what is the possibility of providing them?

[Al-Wazir] The YSP is demanding the implementation of specific clauses in the Document, as this would insure the return of Vice President al-Bid to Sanaa. The required guarantees are the implementation of the initial clauses relating to security in order to make Sanaa secure for residence.

[Yasin] The concern over security is linked to the assassinations of dozens of YSP members. Why are those responsible for the assassinations not punished?

[Al-Wazir] Ask those who refuse to investigate these crimes.

[Yasin] But you, as a Yemeni who follow events, may have an idea of the reason for this refusal, especially since there have been 156 assassinations.

[Al-Wazir] I believe that establishing security is very important to promoting the democratic process, which can only thrive in an atmosphere of security and stability. Dialogue, unlike violence, provides a chance for understanding. If it is difficult to implement the initial clause of the Document—that is, handing over those accused of the assassinations—the parties can start by implementing the other clauses of the Document and leave the first clause for the future. I propose that the parties start by implementing local rule and put off the clause on assassinations, which is difficult.

[Yasin] Why is it difficult?

[Al-Wazir] Because they have not started to implement it, which indicates that it is difficult.

[Yasin] I would like to ask about the other political forces in Yemen, particularly the al-Islah Party, the third partner in the government.

[Al-Wazir] The al-Islah Party is a prominent party and is trying to contain the crisis. However, the efforts of all parties should focus on implementing the Pledge and Accord Document, because it is the key to solving problems and achieving social justice, which is absent in Yemen. Yemen is now divided into an abject poor class and an unfairly rich one. Other problems are rife in Yemen, like the lack of security and deterioration of education. Moreover, the media is concentrating on useless aims. There are other problems that the al-Islah Party, the General People's Congress, and the YSP should resolve; and they should revive the principles and goals for which blood was shed to establish the state of Yemen. If they fail to do this, the long struggle would be in vain.

[Yasin] What about your party?

[Al-Wazir] The Islamic Unification and Action Party, as is clear from the name, is an Islamic party based on monotheism and it acts to establish a state on the basis of true Islam. The ideology of the party is that there is no contradiction between traditionalism and modernism. We call for coping with the age while not disavowing tradition and heritage of our predecessors. The party also calls for Arab and Islamic unity. [passage omitted]

Ex-President Opposes Arab, Other Intervention

PM1105113194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 p 5

[Interview with former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Ustuwani] Were there signs pointing to what is happening now, signs which the various parties failed to deal with before the situation deteriorated?

[Muhammad] I had warned from the beginning that unless the Yemeni institutions (Presidential Council, Cabinet, and House of Representatives) convened, the Pledge and Accord Document implemented, and the problems which appeared from time to time contained, the alternative would be a power vacuum, anarchy, accusations, explosions, and war. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] Missiles entered the arsenal of the South Yemeni forces when you were president, when you received them from the Soviet Union. Did it never occur to you that they might be used in some wars?

[Muhammad] I remember that after signing the agreement to purchase that weapon, Brezhnev told me that "this is a lethal and dangerous weapon and should only be used to threaten and intimidate, not to be fired." We saw it as an element of Yemen's strength against any foreign threat. We never used it in any of our past battles because we wanted stability for Yemen, the region, and our neighbors.

[Al-Ustuwani] What, in your view, should be done to end this grinding war?

[Muhammad] I am in favor of dialogue and I will not change my position even though that may not be in harmony with what is going on now or its consequences; but that is my position and sole responsibility. I call on them to resort to dialogue to resolve the crisis despite the fact that there have been considerable losses and clashes.

[Al-Ustuwani] The Arab League had proposed sending Arab forces. Are you in favor of such a solution and of Arab League intervention, bearing in mind that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih rejected that?

[Muhammad] I support dialogue and the efforts being made by the Arab League and some Arab and friendly states to contain the crisis, but that, in my view, does not justify sending Arab forces to Yemen because the crisis is a Yemeni crisis and the solution must be a Yemeni solution. I am against partition and division in this case. The Arab efforts cannot succeed unless all parties respond, which is not what we are seeing now.

[Al-Ustuwani] How do you feel about foreign military intervention?

[Muhammad] As a matter of principle I am against the dispatch of any Arab or foreign forces. I reject that. Somalia is maybe an example of the failure of that to solve the problem. This is a Yemeni problem and it is up to the Yemenis to define it and to solve it.

[Al-Ustuwani] There are those who claim that neighboring states such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are behind the crisis and that they have provided aid for the south. What do you think?

[Muhammad] We should not apportion blame haphazardly or hold the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, or other foreign powers, responsible in any way because the problem is an internal Yemeni problem and the conflict an internal conflict, and the solution must be a Yemeni solution. We should not blame fraternal or friendly states for our own mistakes and failure in Yemen. The brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have made statements reaffirming their interest in Yemen's stability, and we have felt these sentiments from them.

[Al-Ustuwani] In your view, what role can the United States play to contain the crisis?

[Muhammad] We have, from the beginning, welcomed the positive U.S. role in containing the crisis. The U.S. initiative emphasized Yemeni unity, democracy, modernization, and stability. We saw these proposals and initiative as a special stance by Washington toward the Yemeni people. Washington realizes that stability in Yemen means stability in the region.

[Al-Ustuwani] Are you in favor of raising the issue at the Security Council?

[Muhammad] I do not believe that is necessary. What has the Security Council got to do with it, if these are internal differences? We have rejected Arab military intervention, so are we to accept foreign solutions? This is an internal matter and we do not allow intervention in it.

[Al-Ustuwani] Are you holding any consultations or contacts with the Yemeni parties?

[Muhammad] There have been contacts between me and the Yemeni president and vice president, and Salim Salih Muhammad, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] assistant secretary general who is now in London, and other political figures in Yemen and abroad such as Brigadier General Shaykh Mujahid Abu-Shawarib. In all these contacts I emphasized—and still do—that the crisis must be contained and resolved peacefully and that the army and people of Yemen must be saved because anything else would weaken Yemen and its standing in the world.

[Al-Ustuwani] What about your own personal initiative for the settlement of the Yemeni crisis?

[Muhammad] I am now making contacts with the aim of finding a way to halt what is happening now. The Yemeni people are always my concern because they are suffering for no fault of their own. I want peace and security for the Yemeni people. I had previously made an initiative, and last month I submitted another initiative to the political leadership—but they did not respond to it, nor did they respond to the other Arab initiatives made by our brothers and friends.

[Al-Ustuwani] Can you tell us about your second initiative, concerning which nothing has been published?

[Muhammad] It is a practical program for the next phase. It would not be beneficial to divulge its details now. My role is not one of mediator but of someone who cares about national unity, Yemeni unity, and sparing Yemen the dangers of war, destruction, and partition. It is not a role in pursuit of personal gain or interest, nor of achieving personal political objectives. At any rate, we are awaiting what happens next.

[Al-Ustuwani] So, you are not at present contemplating returning to Yemen to help stop the deterioration?

[Muhammad] Quite the contrary. I am willing to go to Yemen if the general interest requires it and if the leadership is willing to respond to such an initiative. I am prepared to sacrifice for Yemen and for the future and security of Yemen, whatever the consequences. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] It has been claimed that forces loyal to you have now joined the military battles on the side of the northern forces to topple the Aden [leaders]. Is that true?

[Muhammad] I have instructed the forces and people loyal to me to put Yemen's unity above all other considerations. They are fighting for that now. Wherever my forces are, they are a part of the Yemeni forces working for Yemen's future...and I am in contact with them and with all the Arab brothers and friends. We await the settlement of the situation and the restoration of calm for the Yemen people, but there are still fears about the possible consequences of victory by either side.

YSP Politburo Condemns Continuity of War

LD1205091594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] An authoritative source of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau has stated the following to Yemeni news agency SABA:

At a time when the regionalist and separatist forces of Sanaa are continuing the war against the people and unity with the flagrant and shameless help of foreign forces, they are still refusing to listen to the appeals of popular and political forces in the homeland, as well as the appeals of Arab brothers and friends to stop this ugly and destructive war.

The appeal, issued by the national bloc of opposition on 9 May on halting the war, is one of the nationalist appeals which condemns the choice of war which has been imposed upon the homeland.

The people and the YSP, which has condemned the war from its outset on 27 April, reiterates its support for the appeal made by the national opposition bloc, proceeding from its antiwar stance and its defense for the unity and for the Pledge and Concord Accord.

The YSP appeals to the political and popular forces to condemn the war and the warmongers, who have been refusing to spare the blood of Yemenis, and to condemn the continuity of the war and the fighting between sons of the same country.

The YSP and the armed forces' response to unity and democracy, as well as the appeals to stop the war, falls within the framework of our stance, which has been rejecting and condemning the military option. [Words indistinct] on the crimes which are being committed by the war criminals against citizens, the armed forces, and the country's unity and future.

It will not be possible for those people to realize their miserable illusions. The heroic resistance of the people, with all its social forces, together with the armed forces, which have been defending unity and democracy, has thwarted and will thwart their illusions, which has sunk Yemen deep in this dirty war. Furthermore, it will not be possible for them to wash their hands of their crimes through their (?dirty interpretation).

In addition, their use of foreign forces in full view of the world has proved their bankruptcy as well as their defeat in front of the steadfast heroes of unity and the martyrs of the homeland.

Paper Urges People To Fight 'Sick' Family

EA1105214494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The current aggression by the al-Ahmar gang on the armed forces of unity and democracy has been dealt with by the local newspapers. SAWT AL-UMMAL newspaper in its issue affirmed that the criminal acts by the al-Ahmar military family culminated with the ignition of the civil war and the inter-Yemen war.

The newspaper indicated that the ugliest images of envy had become evident in the hundreds of dead and thousands of injured. The newspaper said in this connection: We do not find words to express this criminal tragedy experienced by our Yemeni people today as the result of a sick president and a family which is mainly concerned to preserve its interests and continues to [word indistinct] the people's fortunes and wealth. The newspaper quoted the proverb which says: He who digs a hole for his brother falls in. The newspaper went on to say that the al-Ahmar ruling family has declared confrontation between it and the people. The people must therefore join their armed forces in order to decide the match and normalize the matter by restoring the authority to the people so that the people and their armed forces could stand against this crime, which is commanded by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, 'Ali Muhsin al- Ahmar and his brother, Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih and other highwaymen. SAWT AL-UMMAL said that the conspiracy against the people became complete with the ruling family's decision to declare a state of emergency. By this the family unmasked its ugly face, which is hostile to democracy, unity, and civil and human rights.

Presidential Council Member Inspects Missile Explosion Site

JN1105151194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, member of the Presidential Council, has met with the brother directors of the administrations of the Presidential Council Office and several advisers, in the presence of brother Lieutenant General Sa'id Muhammad Ghanim, deputy chairman of the General Staff Command.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani reviewed the stages of the development of the fabricated crisis and the [word indistinct] the secessionist leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] of declaring war at more than one location.

He pointed out that the objective of that leadership is to fragment national unity by inciting regional loyalties, stressing that the Yemeni people in all governorates are now aware of the conspiracy, especially after that leadership has rejected legitimacy and revealed its deep-rooted malice against defenseless citizens.

The brother member of the Presidential Council said all the concessions offered to the YSP did not change their sick, odious mentalities [words indistinct]. They continued to reject Islamic law as a frame of reference [words indistinct] a winery, and would not implement the decisions of the authorities to turn this winery, that violates the orders of God in broad daylight, into another factory that is useful to the citizens [words indistinct].

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani also inspected the situation of the people at the site of the ugly, odious crime committed by the forces of apostasy and secession when a missile fell on the homes of secure citizens.

The member of the Presidential Council delivered a speech to a massive crowd that had flocked since early morning to the scene of the crime. He aid the enemies of unity and democracy have used the weapon the Yemeni people bought with their [word indistinct] and sweat. He said the Yemeni people in the southern governorates have suffered for 23 years and paid a heavy price as a result of malice and tyranny.

Oil Company Fixes Fuel Prices, Warns Against Violations

JN1105105494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0907 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Oil Company, department of gas stations, warns the gas station owners in all parts of the Republic of Yemen that they should strictly abide by the prices of the oil byproducts as they have always been and as follows:

One liter of gasoline: six rials
One liter of diesel oil: three rials.
One liter of kerosene: three rials.

Whoever violates this list will have his license withdrawn and the gas station will be closed. Strict legal measures will also be taken against him.

The Company will launch a monitoring campaign on all stations in coordination with the security authorities to maintain the prices. The Company appeals to the brother citizens to cooperate and abide by the official price list and to immediately report any violations so that strict measures can be taken against the violators. All are requested to abide by these prices and cooperate.

Electricity Official Comments on Repair of Damaged Station

JN1105113594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0625 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with engineer 'Abd-al-Mu'ti al-Junayd, deputy director of projects in the General Electricity Corporation, by 'Abd-al-Malik al-'Ayzari in the studio—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Junayd] I am happy to explain to the brother citizens what happened to the electricity grid in the Dhamar area as a result of raids and shelling by the secessionists in the Ba Suhayb military camp. In fact, we are lucky because the damage was very limited, concentrating on electricity lines that extend from the station to feed the capital, Sanaa.

[Al-'Ayzari] This means the [words indistinct] lines?

[Al-Junayd] [Words indistinct] In the station itself, the damage is very minor and concentrated on the lines, [word indistinct] the lines extending from the Dhamar station to the capital, Sanaa. The brothers [words indistinct] took a position in favor of the constitutional legitimacy. Teams moved and the brothers from the General Electricity Corporation, with their equipment came and they defined the damage and began repair work.

The lines extend from the Dhamar transformers to Sanaa through two circuits. The teams in the area repaired the first circuit. A great effort was made and they were able to restore electric current to Sanaa. The day before yesterday at 8 or 9 o'clock [am, pm not specified] they completed their task successfully, restoring power to Sanaa in a very normal way.

Repair work on the second circuit, which is really a reserve circuit, continues. It was hit harder. The brothers at the site [words indistinct] brother Ahmad al-'Ayni also present to have a firsthand knowledge of the situation. The repairs will be carried out and today, and tomorrow they will be able to repair everything and the electric power would be completely restored.

We tell the citizens that the electric current is available in the capital and there are no problems and their will be no cuts, God willing. [passage omitted]

Sanaa, Aden Conditions; Refugees Enter Oman

94P50141A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report from London by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah, from Sanaa by Naji al-Harazi, from Damascus by Salwa al-Ustuwani, from Muscat by Sa'id 'Isa, and from the Aden and Cairo bureaus of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT]

[Excerpts] The bullets and shells in the Yemeni civil war were accompanied by a confrontation of a new type, aimed at holding the minds of those who have conducted the battles or participated in them, as the two sides disseminated conflicting communiques about the northern forces' potential capture of the city of Aden, and the distance between it and the battles.

While the communiques issued by Sanaa yesterday indicated the battles were going on 5 km from Aden, communiques and statements of the southern command said these battles were in al-Dali' in the Governorate of Lahij—at a distance of 100 km—and in Zinjibar, the capital of the Governorate of Abyan—about 40 km away.

Eyewitnesses in Aden said conditions were quiet there. No firing or shelling was heard, which would testify to the closeness of the battles to them in the areas of al-'Alam or Dar Sa'd. Employees went to their offices and places of work, merchants opened their doors, and while the sounds of distant explosions echoed, some said that they perhaps came from northern shelling in the Governorate of Lahij.

The Sultanate of Oman yesterday witnessed a large wave of refugees entering from southern Yemen, due to the escalation of the battles going on between the northern and southern forces.

An Omani source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an Omani emergency committee was formed with the chairmanship of Musallam Bin-'Ali al-Busa'idi, minister of state and governor of Dhofar, to deal with this situation. The committee includes in its membership the director of labor in the southern part of the Sultanate and some officials from other agencies, among them the police and the armed forces.

This committee is being aided in its work by a similar committee in Muscat headed by the minister of social affairs and labor, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ahmad al-'Isa'i, and including officials from other government agencies.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, has implored the northern and southern leaders of Yemen to stop the battles, and expressed Oman's regret over the fighting in the Cabinet meeting held on Saturday.

In addition, Omani officials expect that the movement of refugees toward the southern Omani borders will increase if the intensity of the battles increases or they near the city of Aden or the Governorate of Hadramawt.

Feelings of unease are spreading among the Yemeni citizens in both Aden and Sanaa, but it appears that their morale in the two cities is high. All appear ready to bear up and withstand hardship for a long time, if this will bring Yemen to a happy condition, after the months of unrest that have prevailed during the Yemeni crisis since 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], sequestered himself in Aden on 19 August.

Observers in Sanaa stated that several of its residents have decided to leave for their villages, not due to fear of the confrontation's widening and reaching the outskirts of the capital, but to protect their women, children, and elderly. They would possibly return to defend it if the situation required. The movement of people and cars do not give the impression that the situation is abnormal, except that the electricity is cut off from time to time, and gasoline, diesel fuel, and kerosene are scarce.

Residents told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that they are prepared to remain in Sanaa and defend it, even if the war continues between what they term the forces of legitimacy and the forces of the separatists in the YSP for several weeks to come. Most of those who belong to regions outside the capital are amazed at the behavior of those who have decided to leave the city and flee to their villages, asking: "How can they leave this city, which has afforded them a chance to work, live, profit, and acquire wealth?"

These people expressed confidence that the war will end in victory for the truth and the constitutional, legitimate will, no matter how long it takes. They indicated that the bombing that Sanaa suffers from time to time, especially during the night hours, cannot be worse than that during the 70 day siege in which the masses' will was victorious. They described those who fired rockets at or conducted airstrikes against Sanaa as "traitors who deserve the most severe punishment."

At the same time, Sanaa radio and television are carrying propaganda campaigns to raise the morale of the Yemenis and mobilize them against what are called "the forces of separatism and rebellion against constitutional legitimacy, led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid."

Sanaa news does not provide specific details on the course of the fighting, which has become narrowly confined, as northern sources say, around the approaches of the Governorate of Aden. In addition, it affirms the advance of what it describes as the forces of constitutional legitimacy, and the proximity of its control over the approaches to Aden, and perhaps over the city itself during the next few hours.

However, YSP sources affirm that this is absurd, and give as an example the communique that said day before yesterday "that the northern forces control the al-'Anad airport, while today this was proved untrue."

The [northern] sources stated that these forces are striving during their advance to minimize human and material losses as much as possible in the areas that they control, especially among the civilians who are, they said, appearing very sympathetic and supportive of [the North], contrary to what Aden radio and the communiques issued from there are repeating.

In addition, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah's rejection of what was being said about Sanaa's acceptance of a delegation from the League of Arab States to mediate in the Yemeni crisis produced a positive reaction among many of the citizens. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT talked to them about this, and they confirmed their support for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim's position refusing any foreign intervention or mediation at this very late stage of the crisis.

They also confirmed their support for what is being expressed in Sanaa and what Yemeni Interior Ministry sources are claiming, that the war going on now is not between the North and the South, or the northern and southern armies, but is a Yemeni war between forces defending constitutional legitimacy and forces defending the interests of some of the YSP leaders who they described as" [unfinished sentence as published] [passage omitted on statements by the foreign minister, Jordan's Arab League representative, the Arab League's assistant secretary general, on the possible intervention of Arab League states to mediate in the crisis]

In Aden, Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, head of the secretariat of the YSP, condemned the destruction caused by the northern authorities in the YSP Central Committee headquarters in Sanaa and inquired as to the fate of Salih 'Abbad (Muqbil), a Political Bureau member and member of the Senate presidency, who is in Sanaa and whose whereabouts are not currently known. He indicated "the absurdity of Sanaa's claim that its forces are nearing Aden" and welcomed "any efforts to stop the bloodshed in Yemen."

For his part, the former South Yemeni president, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, called for a stop to the fighting, but insisted that the solution should be a Yemeni one, and rejected the sending of any Arab forces to Yemen. He affirmed that his forces are fighting for the Yemeni people's future, security, and stability.

Salih Orders Reconstruction of Destroyed Houses

JN1205054794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Pursuant to instructions from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani yesterday visited the families of the victims of the spiteful missile aggression. He extended condolences on behalf of the brother president.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani had earlier inspected the situation of the people at the site of the ugly, odious crime committed by the forces of apostasy and secession when a missile fell on the homes of secure citizens.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has instructed the competent authorities to reconstruct the houses that were destroyed at the expense of the state, and to give 100,000 riyals in aid to each affected family.

Saddam Reportedly 'Unable' To Meet Palestinian Group

JN1105182594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 May 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that certain snags have prevented the visit of a high-level Palestinian political delegation to Baghdad. Primarily, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has apologized for being unable to receive the delegation at present.

On the other hand, a Palestinian military delegation, which has been visiting Baghdad for more than two weeks, discussed technical issues only at the level of liaison officers between the forces of the Palestine Liberation Army and the Iraqi Army.

The troops of the Palestine Liberation Army deployed in Iraq will be the first to enter Jericho through Jordan this week.

Iraq did not agree to allow these forces to leave and to take along all their weapons. It allowed them to carry personal weapons only, that is, a pistol for officers. It also allowed them to carry 60 rifles as they leave the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

The PLO tried to acquire light weapons and ammunitions from Jordan. While discussing this issue, Greece said it was willing to provide the Palestinian police force with light weapons.

'Aziz Arrives in New York for Talks on Ending Blockade

JN1205102494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] New York, 12 May (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will today begin a series of political talks with the president and members of the UN Security Council on lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

INA correspondent in New York said that Tariq 'Aziz will meet with Ibrahim Gambari, Nigeria's ambassador to the United Nations and current UN Security Council president, at the UN headquarters in New York today.

Later today, the deputy prime minister is scheduled to separately meet with China's Ambassador Li Zhaoxing, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, and Omani Ambassador Salim Bin-Muhammad al-Qusaybi.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York last night from Vienna after he held talks with Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

'Aziz Comments on Embargo, Relations With Turkey

NC1105210094 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 11 May 94 p 17

[First of an unspecified number of installments of an exclusive interview with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, by MILLIYET correspondent Nur Batur in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Batur] The embargo's effects on Iraq are gradually becoming more serious. Why have you not agreed to the UN proposal for the sale of oil worth $1.6 billion?

['Aziz] UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 do not allow Iraq to meet its basic needs because they call for the allocation of a significant amount of the profit from the sale of its oil for the UN personnel's expenses and for compensation to the countries that incurred losses as a result of the war. The two resolutions were drawn up in order to place Iraq under UN control. The objective is to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. We definitely cannot agree to all that. The two superpowers do not wish to alleviate the Iraqi people's pain.

[Batur] Would Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions not provide for the relaxation of the embargo to a certain degree?

['Aziz] No, it would not. Had conditions not been imposed, a way could have been found to move away from the embargo. However, their objective is to create instability in Iraq.

[Batur] Turkey still fears that the Kurds may be forced to emigrate once again if the security umbrella over them is lifted.

['Aziz] I have been informed of that viewpoint several times. We are prepared to give any kind of guarantee that a new wave of emigration will not take place. The Iraqi Administration stands to gain nothing by resorting to military measures to resolve the Kurdish problem. That problem cannot be resolved through military measures. We have had incidents for the past 25 years. A political solution is necessary. That is the guarantee we can give.

[Batur] Karkuk is a key problem between the Kurds and Baghdad. Do you plan to give a share of Karkuk to the Kurds when the talks are resumed?

['Aziz] No, we do not. Talks cannot be held on Karkuk.

[Batur] What would you do if the Hammer Force's mandate is broadened to include Karkuk?

['Aziz] We shall resist such a move.

[Batur] Will that be in the form of military resistance?

['Aziz] We shall resist in every way.

[Batur] The strength of Iraq's military forces is a matter of concern. Baghdad made certain statements in the past, the nature of which was to threaten Turkey.

['Aziz] The target of those statements was the leaders who sided with the allies at the time.

[Batur] You mean former President Turgut Ozal?

['Aziz] I do not wish to criticize a person who has passed away. However, that was the situation at the time. Had we taken a negative approach to Turkey, would we have agreed to joint projects with it? Nevertheless, the question of water supply is an important matter. It must be resolved in accordance with the two countries' interests.

[Batur] You have claimed that Turkey has been used by the United States.

['Aziz] I believe that Turkey has made a historic mistake by joining the alliance against Iraq. Turkey is an Islamic country. Do not forget that it is one of Iraq's neighbors. Neighbors must respect each other's independence. Turkey has now begun to pay the price of its move to join the alliance against Iraq.

[Batur] What is the political cost?

['Aziz] Was it right on Turkey's part to join an alliance against one of its neighbors? You may not have approved of what we had done. However, you should have said so. Why did you join the military operations launched by the United States, Britain, and other Western countries? The objective of the military operations was not to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait; it was to destroy Iraq. Did you stand to gain anything from that?

[Batur] What do you expect from Turkey?

['Aziz] We wish to maintain our favorable and mutually beneficial relations. Turkey continues to observe the UN embargo. That conflicts with its own interests. Turkey has suffered significantly as a result of this. It has the right to act and adopt decisions in accordance with its interests.

[Batur] Are you saying that Turkey can ignore the embargo by itself?

['Aziz] The UN Charter allows countries that suffer to act individually to safeguard their rights. We are your friends and neighbors. The past must not be allowed to affect our relations. Iraq remains on its feet and it will continue to exist. So, the Turkish Government should move to reestablish its relations with Iraq as soon as possible.

[Batur] Claims have been put forward that Baghdad supports the Kurdish Workers Party and its leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

['Aziz] No, it does not.

[Batur] Abdullah Ocalan has reportedly visited Baghdad.

['Aziz] That, too, is untrue. We do not stand to gain anything by destabilizing Turkey. We are not involved in plots. Plots are being made against Iraq, but we do not act in a similar way.

[Batur] Who is making plots against Iraq?

['Aziz] Those who directly or indirectly support the abnormal and false situation in northern Iraq. We are suffering from that situation. Nevertheless, we have the experience we need, so we do not maintain a two-faced policy.

[Batur] Does Turkey maintain a two-faced policy toward Iraq?

['Aziz] Yes, some of the officials in Turkey do.

AL-THAWRAH: Blockade's Demise 'Only a Question of Time'

JN1105184094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 May 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "The Others and the Brunt of the Blockade"]

[Text] When we look at the international stands on the unfair blockade against our country and people, we find that the picture today is different from what it was yesterday. What once looked ike international unanimity is now nothing more than deception and a ploy Washington imposed on everyone by temptation and intimidation.

Therefore, it is not strange to see Turkey lamenting its poor economic conditions and calling for help, and to watch Bulgaria speaking bitterly and cynically about the over-rich who no longer dig into their pockets. On the other hand, France is not hiding its bitterness about the so-called U.S. "reward" and the loss of its markets and friendships. Russia has not ceased complaining about the brunt of the damage it has sustained due to its support for the blockade. The same can be said about conditions in Germany, Greece, and many other nations. The unfair blockade imposed on our people by U.S. domination and influence in international decisions has become a cause for resentment and a source of great economic pressure in many nations due to the political stands they once adopted.

Those who went along with the blockade and abided by its policy did not, in the worst or best conditions, realize it would take such a long time, and that the "booty" they had expected would not be worth their blessing or silence, instead of their objection or protest, especially since they had already been paid for their stands in advance and were compensated by both the Saudi and Kuwaiti treasuries for some time and later threatened by the United States if they tried to breach or ignore the unfair resolutions.

Iraq's steadfastness and endurance, thanks to its leadership's ability and wisdom and its people's awareness,

cohesiveness, and will power, have been and still are the main decisive factors in exposing and unveiling U.S. policies. This legendary steadfastness was the potent weapon that eroded and mutilated the logic of domination and made many countries reconsider their stands on the basis of their national interests. Their unjustifiable drift behind Washington's policy all those years has led to incalculable negative results, the least of which are the closure of factories, the bankruptcy of companies, increasing unemployment, mounting economic losses, and the loss of many markets in the area.

If a number of French officials have admitted the enormous losses France has incurred as a result of drifting behind Washington's policy, Russia's losses are even greater in the economic and the political spheres.

Turkey, whose foreign debts in 1990 were less than $13.6 billion, is now facing debts of $70 billion. Turkish Prime Minister Ciller admits the blockade has caused her country losses of more than $20 billion and has greatly affected its commercial dealings and economic situation. She calls for the need to end this blockade due to its disastrous results on her country. The Bulgarian Government has also demanded through its Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Matinchev the need to lift the blockade on Iraq, which has caused damages to Bulgaria amounting to $3.5 billion. The Bulgarian deputy prime minister admits all attempts to resolve this problem have failed since the countries imposing this blockade "no longer dig into their pockets to compensate those who suffered damages."

The increasing world outcry against the unfair blockade has established a tangible reality that accurately reflects the degree of its disintegration and erosion and the demand for its termination and burial. In as much as it showed the grave sin committed against Iraq and its people, the blockade revealed the great damage it has caused the world, and therefore fully exposed the logic of domination and the policy of monopolization being exercised by Washington.

Thus, the mounting outcry to lift the unfair blockade against our country has convinced us of our sound policy, strong will power, cohesiveness, and spirit of patience, endurance, and firmness. Were it not for this legendary steadfastness, we would not have been able to defeat the logic of aggression and to expose the faces of the aggressors with all their ugliness.

Indeed, it is now only a question of time, and all indications are time is in favor of steadfast Iraq.

Officials Protest Leaflets, Violations of Airspace

JN1105200094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] New York, 11 May (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN General Secretariat that U.S. and other warplanes, flying from the Saudi and Kuwaiti territories, have violated Iraqi airspace over various Iraqi governorates and dropped leaflets hostile to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

In a message received by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said two enemy warplanes, flying from Saudi and Kuwait territories, violated Iraqi airspace on 3 May. They overflew al-Najaf and al-Muthanna Governorates and dropped large quantities of provocative leaflets, the message says.

The message adds U.S. and other warplanes carried out similar aggressive acts over the Ninawa, Salah al-Din, and al-Ta'mim Governorates.

The foreign minister stressed that the imposition of the no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq is an illegitimate and illegal act which has nothing to do with the United Nations.

Addressing the UN secretary general, the minister said: Your excellency, you have stressed this point more than once, and so did your spokesman, Mr. Gosles [name as transliterated]. The entire world knows that these illegitimate and illegal acts constitute a glaring aggression against Iraq and a serious violation of its sovereignty, security, and the safety of its people.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said Iraq strongly protests and denounces these provocative practices which contravene the rules of international law and the UN Charter.

He added: On behalf of the Iraqi Government, I officially ask you to assume your responsibilities toward halting those provocative practices and putting an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq in observance of the UN Charter and in accordance with the international body's responsibilities toward respecting nations' sovereignty.

Netanyahu: Autonomy Accord 'Document of Surrender'

TA1105171694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Addressing the Knesset plenum today, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu announced: The day on which the agreement with the PLO was signed was a dark day. This document is a disaster, a historical mistake.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] Furtively, surreptitiously, perfidiously, they are trying to divert the public's attention from the signed-and-sealed next stage: Samaria and Judaea, the Jordan Rift Valley and the eastern slopes of the Judaea Mountains, as well as Jerusalem, whose turn to be united with the PLO will come during this obsequious government's course of action.

In Oslo, you envisioned the first stage of the Arab state from the sea to the desert. In Washington, you signed an agreement to love and cherish 'Arafat, the chairman of the murder syndicate. And in Cairo, publicly degraded and humiliated in a live broadcast aired to the entire world, you signed the document of surrender. [end recording]

Rabin stared tiredly at Netanyahu, then waved his hand dismissively and slowly uttered: Baloney. [passage omitted]

Knesset Endorses Rabin Speech After Opposition Walkout

TA1105183194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] All opposition Knesset members [MK's] left the plenum prior to the vote held in conclusion of the debate at which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented the Gaza and Jericho agreements. In the opposition's absence, the prime minister's speech was endorsed by a majority of 52 versus zero opponents. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that some opposition MK's, including Dan Meridor, Beni Begin, Yitzhaq Shamir, and David Levi, were sharply opposed to abandoning the plenum. They maintained that the step is a violation of parliamentary rules.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who closed the debate, said that in the Likud era, 120,000 Palestinians were locked up in prisons, which were schools for nationalism and the reason for the emergence of a Palestinian nation and a Palestinian entity in Gaza.

Rabinovich: Peace Package Principles 'Nonnegotiable'

TA1205062394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 May 94

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and chief delegate to the talks with Syria, by Washington correspondent Arye Golan on 11 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Sir, we hear that the State Department has very low expectations about Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming trip to the Middle East and it does not expect an imminent breakthrough. Do you share this cautious pessimism?

[Rabinovich] I would not necessarily use the pessimistic language used here, in Washington, on the eve of the visit. Lowering expectations in advance of trips by senior U.S. statesmen to enable them to deal with the issues on the agenda free of pressure for immediate achievements is a known pattern.

[Golan] Did Secretary of State Christopher voice any reservations whatsoever about the Israeli package? In the meetings you held with him and his peace team this week, did you equip him with different or new ideas to present in Damascus?

[Rabinovich] The U.S. side had no reservations about the Israeli package, I do not know what such reports are based on.

[Golan] Did he approve of the Israeli package?

[Rabinovich] No new ideas were required in the wake of our discussions with the Americans this week. We presented our so-called package to the secretary of state in his previous visit. He relayed his impressions [as heard] to the Syrian side and came back with reactions and counterproposals. We clearly do not plan to go into any bargaining at this point. First of all, we want to make sure that the Syrians fully realize that we are talking about a comprehensive package in which every element is part of a whole complex and that a specific issue cannot be singled out. This is the package, and its principles are nonnegotiable.

IDF Pullout From Jericho To Be Completed 13 May

TA1205050694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is to withdraw completely from Jericho tomorrow, and more Palestinian police are moving into the Gaza Strip. Details from Tzvi Pantanowitz:

The pace is quickening. Last night hundreds of Palestinian police were poised to move into the Gaza Strip and the Jericho enclave, which are to form the start of autonomy for the Palestinians in the territories.

In Jericho, the advanced guard of the Palestinian police units—about 20 security men—will arrive to check control points and to study the routes of joint patrols with Israeli border policemen today. Another 40 Palestinian security personnel are due tomorrow. They are to take over the Jericho police station, the ancient Jewish synagogue, and a military base. And, in a more than symbolic

gesture, the Israel Civil Administration will hand over to the Palestinians the keys to their offices.

IDF forces will then begin pulling back, and by the afternoon it is expected that the entire enclave will come under Palestinian control. Once this is settled, the force of some 350 policemen poised on the Jordanian side of the Allenby Bridge will arrive to assume their duties. [passage omitted]

Due to cross the Allenby Bridge tonight are another 350 policemen and security personnel. They will be transported by bus and trucks to the Gaza Strip via Israel.

In Gaza, the takeover is beginning to pick up, working from the south northwards. The celebrations in Dayr al-Balah town and the adjacent refugee camp have not abated. And, there was some tension again last night. The long lines of policemen moving northwards from the Rafah border terminal at one stage blocked access to Israeli settlers trying to reach their homes in the Qatif area. Angry and frustrated by the long delays, some of them set out on foot to their homes after the Army decided to close the road to prevent friction between the two groups.

The IDF is reported to be satisfied with the pace of withdrawal from facilities in Gaza and Jericho, and says from its point of view the pullout will be completed by next week. In any event, the Israeli Government believes the hand-over can proceed in an accelerated fashion over the next few days, and by Friday next week—as Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid said yesterday—the Gaza Strip, except for the Jewish settlements, and the Jericho enclave will be in Palestinian hands and a new phase on the road to autonomy will begin.

[A report by Eytan Rabin and 'Amira Hess on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 May quotes a senior IDF source as saying yesterday that "according to our estimates, many weeks will pass before the Palestinian policemen are able to operate in the Gaza Strip. We fear it will not be able to take control of the area or operate against wanted men. We may have to continue operating in the area, leaving behind troops to perform their missions."

[The IDF source "expressed concern about the lack of professionalism of the Palestinian policemen" and possible "internal killings in the Gaza Strip" due to the disputes and disagreements within the local leadership. The source went on to say that "there is uncertainty about the performance of the Palestinian police in the joint patrols with the Israeli Border Police" scheduled to start within a few days.]

No MK Parliamentary Immunity in Autonomy Areas

TA1205101694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir has ruled that after the transfer of powers to the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, Knesset members [MK] will no longer enjoy parliamentary immunity and special privileges in those areas. In all other areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza MK's enjoy special privileges stemming from their position, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] authorities must respect them.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the attorney general emphasized that in the event of a clash between security needs in the area and the right of an MK to freedom of movement, the security needs will prevail. Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir was addressing the Knesset House Committee.

Poll Views Chance of Peace With Palestinians

TA0505123194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 May 94 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: After the signing of the agreement on the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho first, what are the chances for the establishment of peace between Israel and the Palestinians?

- very high—7 percent
- high—28 percent
- low—35 percent
- none—27 percent
- no reply—3 percent

The poll was conducted on 4 May and covered 566 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Weizman Returns From RSA; Al-Shar Meeting Canceled

TA1105174594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The South African Government [as heard] canceled a scheduled meeting between President 'Ezer Weizman and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the last moment. This was learned by our correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin, who accompanied the president on his trip to South Africa. The meeting had been planned in advance, but at the last moment, the Syrians canceled it and apologized.

President Weizman returned tonight from his visit to South Africa, where he attended the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela.

Economic Committee Meetings With PLO Reported

'Clarifications' Sought

JN1105130594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 May 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by Caroline Faraj and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday [10 May] began talks seen crucial to the fate of the economic agreement they signed in January outlining a framework of ties between the Kingdom and the Palestine self-rule authority expected to take over the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Jordanian comments after the five-hour session at the Prime Ministry were non-committal, reflecting the Kingdom's quest to learn firsthand about the PLO's intentions after the organisation signed an economic agreement with Israel in Paris last month.

The Paris agreement contains many provisions which have brought to question many elements in the Jordan-PLO accord signed in Amman on Jan. 7. Officials said Monday the Kingdom would be seeking clarifications on these points and answers to questions on key issues related to banking and monetary affairs, trade and customs etc.

Sources said the Jordanian delegation to the talks, headed by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Jawad al-'Anani, presented to the PLO side a paper containing the points of the clarifications that the Kingdom was seeking.

No definite details were available, but the sources indicated that these questions dealt with the implications of the Paris agreement on the Jordan-PLO accord and how the PLO intended to go about tackling some of the obvious "contradictions" and "overlappings" between the two documents.

PLO officials appeared anxious to reaffirm that they were not seeking to "renegotiate" the Jan. 7 agreement and that the talks were aimed at detailing the modalities of implementing the accord in terms of mechanisms and guidelines.

In general, the Jan. 7 agreement was seen as a general framework for Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations without going into specifics. However, it was widely assumed then that the principles in the accord, as and when implemented, would have cemented the relationship.

According to the sources, Jordan and the PLO had agreed in earlier meetings on economic relations that the specifics could not be worked out as long as it was not known how far the Israelis were willing to go in giving economic freedom to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

However, the Paris agreement, which detailed the specifics of economic relations between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous territories, was seen here as severely curtailing the scope of Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations.

The meeting, which was supposed to have begun early Tuesday, did not get off until after the Jordanian Cabinet held its regular weekly session during which the Kingdom's strategy in the talks with the PLO was expected to be discussed and finalised.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. al-'Anani would only say that "all economic issues of common concern were discussed" during the session with the PLO and that the discussions would continue on Wednesday.

Ahmad Quray', head of the economic department of the PLO, who led the Palestinian side to the talks, said the meeting was "comprehensive and extensive" and covered "all aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic relationship."

"The Jordanian-Palestinian accord (of Jan. 7) is the basis of the relationship," he told AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES.

Asked whether the PLO was seeking any changes in the agreement in view of the Israel-PLO accord, Mr. Quray' said: "Changes if any will be in favour of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord." He did not elaborate.

However, he stressed, any possible changes in the accord "will mean detailing the agreement's provisions. There will be no changes in the basis and principles of the agreement."

"Certain joint committees will be activated," he added.

"We discussed all issues such as banking currency, trade, and customs," he said. "These are issues that should be clarified to sustain the unique, brotherly relation between Jordan and Palestine."

Asked whether the Israel-PLO accord had narrowed the scope for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, Mr. Quray' said: "On the contrary, I believe that the agreement with Israel has helped implement the Jordanian-Palestinian accord."

"It is true that the (Israel-PLO) accord did not give us all that we were seeking, but it gave us some of what we sought," said mr. Quray'.

"The door is not closed for the rest of our rights, which will be restored gradually..."

Mr. Quray' said: "We will soon witness Palestinian-Arab agreements. We are part of the Arab World and a permanent member of the Arab League and we have a strategic Arab depth which supports our position."

Attending the meetings on the Jordanian side were planning Minister Ziyad Fariz, Minister of industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, minister of State 'Adil Irshayd,

Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Michel Martu and Foreign Ministry advisors Ibrahim Badran and Ahmad Qatanani.

The PLO side to the meeting included Jawad Naji, head of the Economic Department of the PLO in Amman, Amin Haddad, 'Atif 'Alawinah, 'Awn al-Shawwa, Midhat Kan'an, Palestinan Ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim and Samir Hulaylah.

Committee Resumes Meetings

JN1105160994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee resumed its meetings at the Prime Ministry today. The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information. The Palestinian side was led by Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department.

The committee began its meetings yesterday. The agenda includes discussing many economic issues, such as banks, currency, trade exchanges, customs, and other issues.

PLO's Quray Comments on Talks

LD1105210394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala, director of the PLO's economic affairs and planning department, has said that Jordanian and Palestinian delegations held intensive economic talks yesterday. The talks focused deeply and comprehensively on all the details of every aspect of Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations and the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement, recently signed in Paris.

In a statement after the talks, which lasted for five hours, Brother Abu-'Ala said that it was stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement signed in Amman early this year is the basis for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. He pointed out that discussions on bilateral issues are still under way and will be resumed today.

Brother Abu-'Ala said that no changes will be made to the bases and principles of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement. Discussions of the issues of banks, trade, currency, and customs will be continued.

King Addresses Palestinian Security Forces in Valley

JN1105200494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Speech by King Husayn to units of the Palestinian National Security Forces during an inspection visit in Ghawr Nimrin on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother youths: In the name of Jordan and Jordanians, in the name of all the kinsfolk, I am pleased to meet with you at these moment while you are preparing to move to your fraternal, dear, and cherished homeland. On behalf of everyone, and in my name, I convey to you all love, appreciation, and pride. [applause] [crowd shouts: One people, not two peoples; long live King Husayn]

We hope you will convey to the kinsfolk and beloved ones in the West Bank and in the Gaza of Hashim all love, appreciation, and pride in their legendary and heroic steadfastness and in their adherence to both the land and right. We pray to God the almighty that these measures are the beginning of the path of regaining the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people on their national soil.

I hope that one thing is not absent from the mind of any of you, that is, I am here personally, and all your kinsfolk and brothers are from you and for you. We do not have any greed or ambition except to see our brothers and kinsfolk in Palestine free on their national soil, living a dignified life, which is their right. [crowd applauds, shouts: "Long live His Majesty King Husayn"]

In addition to this, we are for you to the best of our capabilities and resources. We are dealing with your leadership, the PLO leadership, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people [applause] in accordance with the will of both this people and the Arab nation shown in 1974. We will continue to proceed on this line. All of you live in our hearts and deep in our conscience.

We, here in Jordan, are for the one who will leave his kinsfolk to carry out his new tasks because his kinsfolk are ours and our beloved ones. You are also our kinsfolk, and Jordan, with everything in it, is your kinsfolk. [applause] [crowd shouts: Long live King Husayn; one people, not two peoples]

Concluding, we wish all of you success in their service and sacrifices. We also hope that you will be up to the level of the hopes of the kinsfolk whom you will meet in the West Bank, Gaza, and the remainder of the dear occupied Palestinian Arab territory. It is a great duty. However, with God's help and through everyone's resolve and awareness, you will perfectly carry out your duty. God the almighty is the one who grants success and sponsors the march. Greetings. [applause] [crowd shouts: Long live His Majesty King Husayn]

Be reassured that we here are one cohesive family. Consequently, we all are members of one family in terms of the past, present, and future, and also in confronting all circumstances and possibilities. If you please now, allow me to shake hands with you, one by one.

Egypt's Sidqi Urges Response to PLO-Israel Accord

JN1205122294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 May 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has urged the Jordanian Government to respond positively to the requirements of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, both the political part which was signed in Cairo, and the economic part which was recently signed in Paris.

Dr. Sidqi, who led the Egyptian side to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, has linked the reactivation of Egyptian-Jordanian economic cooperation with Jordan's response to the strategic U.S. policies, "which Egypt is concerned about implementing in the field of comprehensive development in the region," as Sidqi put it, and which Egypt cannot disregard.

He said that his visit to Amman reflects Egypt's concern about reactivating Jordan's role in the economic plan set for the region, which will begin in the occupied territories, in which Jordan is a key player, and which will eventually lead to the creation of a Middle East economic entity, and later a political entity.

Yemen's Basindwah Arrives With Message for King

JN1205060594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah hes arrived in Amman from Cairo on an official visit to Jordan. Basindwah is carrying a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother His Majesty King Husayn that deals with recent developments in fraternal Yemen.

He was received on arrival by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Nayif al-Hadid, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general; the Yemeni ambassador in Amman, and the Yemeni Embassy's staff.

'Sources' Cited on Nationals in Iraqi Jails

JN0705153894 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—Well-informed Jordanian sources say that the Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id al-Tall's recent visit to Baghdad dealt with the issue of Jordanian nationals being held in the Baghdad regime's jails. Official Jordanian circles estimate the number of these convicted detainees, who were charged with offenses ranging from illegal currency exchanges and smuggling to espionage for a foreign state, at 200.

The Jordanian Government is trying to solve this problem by reaching an understanding with the Iraqi authorities.

The sources also say that during his visit to Baghdad, al-Tall reached an agreement with the Iraqi officials on organizing a meeting between the interior ministers of the two countries in order to tackle unsolved issues facing the Jordanian nationals in Iraqi jails.

U.S. Embassy Said Extracting Info From Visa Applicants

JN1205092494 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 12 May 94 pp 1, 22

["Exclusive" report: "Tough Conditions Set by the U.S. Embassy To Extort Jordanians and Recruit Them Into Its Intelligence; the U.S. Embassy Offers Incentives To Hunt Iraqis and Obtain Information About Iraq"]

[Text] Amman—The U.S. Embassy in Amman has provided many incentives to attract Iraqis wishing to emigrate to the United States. It set aside a special place for daily meetings at the embassy and appointed an intelligence team that tells the queuing petitioners every morning that "any Iraqi with important information to declare should step forward?!"

Eyewitnesses said three Iraqi women stepped out of a queue of 150 persons when they heard the question and were immediately taken into the embassy. That day only these three women were granted visas while all other applications were rejected.

An applicant said the U.S. Embassy introduced two surprising articles and questions into the amended visa application forms. These are: Do you have important information [to declare], and do you know anything about underground and terrorist organizations and their places? Applicants say Palestinians, too, might be asked these questions.

Afghans Case Referred to 'Competent' Quarters

JN0905170594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 May 94 p 28

[Report by Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Excerpts] The public prosecutor of the State Security Court has issued a decision dismissing the case of seven Jordanian Afghan defendants. The public prosecutor announced that the case does not fall within the court's jurisdiction and that he would refer the case to the attorney of the State Security Court, who should refer it to the competent judicial quarters.

The decision stated that the State Security Court charged the defendants with participation in a conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts and planning to commit crimes against people and public funds.

The decision said that, after investigating this case and studying it in detail, the public prosecutor of the State Security Court became convinced that the first defendant, Bura', and the second, Yahya, are members of the Jordanian Afghan movement who had left Jordan for Afghanistan in 1989 where they received military training. They stayed there for over a year, during which time they took part in the war there. In 1991, they returned to Jordan.

In 1993, the two defendants got together again and discussed the idea of establishing a religious jihad organization that seeks to remove vice by force and to achieve the highest objective of this organization, the establishment of an Islamic state. The two set out the objectives of the organizations as follows:

1. Declaring as infidel the ruling regime in Jordan and all its civil and military institutions.
2. Attacking the state's civilian and military personnel, since they are followers of the ruling regime.
3. Assassinating certain Jordanian personalities, including intellectuals, economists, and men of letters.
4. Blowing up the Parliament building, since it is the legislative authority that passes legislation conflicting with the Holy Koran.
5. Smashing movie theaters and liquor stores inside the Kingdom.
6. Declaring as infidel women who do not wear an Islamic veil and considering them prisoners of war.

The two defendants, Bura' and Yahya, then began looking for sources to finance this organization, especially to acquire weapons and pay for the expenses and financial obligations of the members of the organization. Consequently, the second defendant, Yahya, issued a ruling sanctioning the theft of funds from non-Muslims and considering the money they get from those people war spoils, as long as those people do not pay Islamic tax for their stay in a Muslim country. The second defendant also sanctioned the theft of bank funds which, they argue, are usurious. He also said it was permissible to take the money of a Muslim who does not pay alms tax either by force or by fraud.

In accordance with this edict, the two defendants agreed to rob several stores and banks, such as the Arab Bank, Umm al-Summaq branch, and a goldsmith in al-Fuhays. They also planned to attack foot patrols to kill them, since they follow an infidel ruling regime, and to seize their weapons.

The two defendants also agreed to recruit other elements to this organization. Thus, the first defendant, Bura', recruited another defendant, Wa'il, after explaining to him the aims of the organization and the methods it would adopt to achieve these aims.

On 17 November 1993, defendant Yahya left Jordan for Saudi Arabia where he was arrested, while the first defendant, Bura', and the third defendant, Wa'il, began to prepare for the thefts that were agreed upon among the three defendants. Wa'il bought a 7-mm pistol [as published] for 400 dinars and two tear gas grenades to be used in the theft operations. [passage omitted]

After verification, it has become clear that the established facts here are not in conformity with the provisions and elements of the first charge against the defendants; namely, participating in a conspiracy to carry out acts of terrorism, and that the actions carried out by all the defendants, even if proved to be true, do not constitute more than an offense, or an agreement to perpetrate crimes against people and their funds in violation of the provisions of Articles 157/1 and 158/3 of the Penal Code No. 16 of 1960.

Since this offense, even if proven true, does not fall within the jurisdiction of the State Security Court in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the State Security Court Law No. 17 of 1959, amended by Law No. 6 of 1993, I have decided to dismiss the case as not falling within my jurisdiction, and to refer the file of the case to the attorney of the State Security Court to refer it to the competent judicial quarters.

The defendants are:

1. Bura' Ghanim 'Abduh, alias Abu-Malik, 33 years old.
2. Yahya Ibrahim al-Zughli, alias Abu-Humam, 35 years old.
3. Wa'il Rashid al-Waza'ifi, 24 years old.
4. Ahmad Nasuh al-Waza'ifi, 26 years old.
5. Ahmad Musa Naji 'Amirah, 25 years old.
6. Isma'il 'Abd-al-Wadud al-'Isawi, 22 years old.
7. 'Ali Muhammad Mahmud al-Faqih, 24 years old.

Delegation Returns From Mandela Inauguration

JN1205080094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] The Jordanian delegation, led by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan [minister of state for foreign affairs], returned to Amman at dawn today after participating in Nelson Mandela's inauguration in South Africa. The delegation was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Nayif al-Hadid, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the chief of the Protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the South African charge d'affaires in Amman.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Georgia, Latvia

JN1105102894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 May 94 p 1

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Republic of Georgia on the nonresident ambassadorial level.

Moreover, a royal decree has been issued approving the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Republic of Latvia on the nonresident ambassadorial level.

Efforts Continuing To Resolve Cabinet Crisis

NC1105114294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] There have been no new developments in the government crisis. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is spending his fourth day at home in Quraytim today. His visitors report that he is persisting with his positions, which call for broadening the basis of government representation of Christian leaders. The visitors appealed to him to start exercising his powers again and to maintain his authority.

Within the framework of the efforts to solve this crisis, former Prime Minister 'Umar Karami is now meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri.

Delegations continued to arrive at Prime Minister al-Hariri's house in Quraytim, where he received Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, Minister of State Shahe Barsoumian, and Deputy Khatchig Babikian. Earlier, al-Hariri received al-Mina' Mayor 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Alam-al-Din, who expressed his support for him in continuing to shoulder responsibility. He also received a delegation from the al-Fulayti clan in 'Irsal, which called on al-Hariri to continue shouldering his responsibility. He then met a delegation led by Shaykh Khalil al-Mays, the mufti of Zahlah and al-Biqa. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Receives Ministers, Leaves Residence

NC1205102994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left his house at 1000 today. Earlier, he received Ministers Marwan Hamadah, 'Abdallah al-Amin, and Jean 'Ubayd. He also received a delegation from Tripoli led by Misbah al-Ahdab, which conveyed its support for al-Hariri's political line and urged him to continue shouldering his responsibilities.

Hizballah Statement Denounces Cairo Accord

NC1105203594 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 May 94 p 6

[Statement by Hizballah on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] A new festival of fraudulence is being held in an Arab capital to obliterate the most luminous cause, the Palestinian cause.

The so-called self-rule agreement signed by 'Arafat, Rabin, the U.S. secretary of state, and the Russian foreign minister is aimed at giving complete legitimacy to the Zionist occupation of the occupied territories in return for giving the Palestinians some powers to administer their affairs.

This agreement seeks to make the treacherous and rejected occupation a legitimate authority acceptable to the Palestinian people. Therefore, this festival is one of fraudulence attended by several foreign and Arab false witnesses.

It is a crime committed against the land, man, and history. They want us to believe this is the long-awaited peace. We ask: Where is the sovereignty? Where are the rest of the rights? What is the fate of the detainees? What is the fate of the rest of the occupied territories? What is the fate of the millions in the diaspora? What is the fate of Jerusalem? What is the fate of all Palestine? Where is all this in the agreement?

Nothing, nothing. There is nothing now or even in the future, because 'Arafat has accepted the bare minimum to enable the Palestinian people to establish a state on even a part of their land in the future. It is a new treason with widespread Arab blessing. The fraudulence in Cairo was preceded by two ceremonies in Muscat and Doha celebrating peace and cooperation with the enemy.

We urge the sons of the Palestinian people and the sons of our nation to realize the dangers of this new plot and to use all means to undermine the prospects of the plotters and foil their schemes by rejecting all projects presented under the banner of a promised peace and future for the Palestinian people and the region's nations. These represent the worst link in the chain of moves to destroy and seize the region.

This new plot will not pass, regardless of its potentials and supporters and regardless of the extolling headlines. Our nation will be lying in wait and will not allow some ostracized people to exploit our nation in order to serve their interests and threaten our nation's interests.

Certainly, it is a day of mourning and grief for the Palestinian people and the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation to see that the Palestinian people have become an isolated community in a state where the authority of the Jewish usurpers is being legitimized.

Fadlallah Views Resistance, Talks, U.S. Role

NC0905123994 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Apr 94 pp 12, 13

["Exclusive" interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] One of the most important issues in Lebanon and the Middle East is that of the peace talks with the Zionist regime. How do you view the future of these talks? What is Lebanon's role in these talks?

[Fadlallah] In my opinion, in Lebanon the dimensions of the peace talks are far greater than in other countries because we have factions that differ on the peace talks. There is a group that accepts the concept of absolute peace and another group rejects it in toto. Another group wishes to accept it conditionally while yet another group

wants to reject it if there are any conditions. Thus, I believe that in Lebanon, any cultural or political move on peace or other issues has far greater consequences than in other countires.

As for the future of peace, the talks lack an element of greatness and effectiveness which could culminate in some definite outcome in the future. This is because the problems between the Arabs and the Zionist regime have some difficult conflicts that cannot be resolved in a year.

In any case, I do feel that the talks are moving toward peace. This is because the regional and international situations—with all they entail—exert pressure on all sides to sign the peace accord. Of course, this pressure is directed more toward the Arabs than Israel. The present political and security situation in the region has endangered the interests of the big governments, the United States in particular. [passage omitted]

If the Arab and Islamic worlds were to wake up from their prolonged slumber, it is possible that they could foil the U.S. and Zionist plans, but the problem is that we do not see any basic political revolution. What we see here is only political talk or political plans. In fact, those who reject the peace process do not have any definite or formulated program on how to handle the various stages of the peace plan. Therefore what we see are mere airy notions, slogans, plans and stances, most of which have no relation to other stances and programs.

Thus, when we look at international realities and the current weakness in the Arab and Islamic world, as well as those who are opposed to the talks, we conclude that in the course of one or two years the talks will fall into the groove that was envisioned for them. Many people believe that if the peace talks do not yield any results by the end of 1994, they will be postponed to after the U.S. elections, as the Americans usually begin preparing for the next presidential elections two years after a new president takes office. Meanwhile, the American Jews will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to put the necessary pressure on the talks, which will then halt these talks. It is to the Zionists' advantage to keep the talks like this and not to let them make any headway, but at the same time they want to get whatever they want from the talks.

Lebanon does not have a fundamental role in these talks, as it usually keeps in step with Syria with regard to relations with the Zionist regime and on the subject of peace talks. It is no secret that Lebanon's position is closely linked with the Syrian stance. It is natural that this would prevent Lebanon from falling into internal or external schemes for a separate peace with the Zionist regime. This relationship between Lebanon and Syria—even though it is considered to have some weak points—has some positive aspects too.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess the latest events in Lebanon, the revelation of those responsible for the bombing of Sayyidat al- Najat Church, and the Lebanese Government's clash with the Lebanese Forces led by Samir Ja'ja'? Is it expected that the Lebanese Government will step up its confrontation with other groups in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] It is natural that there should be a U.S. plan for Lebanon, namely, that the army take over the security bases in Lebanon. This would enable it to exert political pressure. The United States is seeking to do this with all its might. The United States has chosen the Lebanese Army as a means to this end.

It is not too farfetched to believe that on the domestic level, there has been some sort of agreement with Syria. But the Army's complete control or deployment is not as negative for Lebanon as chaos and disarray would be harmful to it. But many politicians believe that this Lebanese fear of chaos and disarray may be misused to impose new restrictions in Lebanon, which would not be in the interest of public freedom. We do see such stances, which are opposed to freedom, in Lebanon.

In the newspapers, in the general political atmosphere, and in some of the government sources in Lebanon, there is talk of pressure on some groups, especially Hizballah. This is because Hizballah is considered the representative of the opposition forces, considered to be under Iran's support and orders. It is the only armed group that still has its weapons, because its weapons are used in the resistance of the occupation of south Lebanon. This has prevented pressure from being exerted on it by the Lebanese Government.

In the circumstances, the Lebanese Government will not permit the suppression of Hizballah or of the Islamic Resistance. This is because the Islamic Resistance Movement has lawful local, regional, and international reasons for existing and the governments are forced to accept them. The Islamic Resistance Movement is a popular movement that demands the withdrawal of foreigners from these territories.

From this angle, the Lebanese Government, an ally of the Syrian Government, cannot resort to crushing the Resistance, because Syria would not agree. Any confrontation of the Resistance by the Lebanese Government would also generate problems, which could usher in a return to civil war in Lebanon. Despite this and without resorting to tackling the issue of the Islamic Resistance directly, the Lebanese Government will take measures to implement some plans that would place Hizballah in a position of weakness.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the role of the Islamic Resistance in the south?

[Fadlallah] In my view, the Islamic Resistance Movement enjoys freedom of action politically and militarily. But it may encounter major difficulties if the talks achieve results and peace with the Zionist regime. Then the conditions in the Arab world will exert pressure on the Islamic Resistance. There could be efforts to embroil the Islamic Resistance in differences and internal dissent, just as we witnessed clashes in the past between the

Hizballah and Amal movements. The Resistance will face greater hardships and problems but this does not mean it will succumb to them. The Islamic Resistance may have other choices in the resistance of the Zionist regime and these may be different from those they have now.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the effect of the Gaza-Jericho Accord and a regional economic accord between the Arab countries and the Zionist regime on Iran, from the security and economic point of view?

[Fadlallah] The Zionist regime is using the Gaza-Jericho Accord as a gateway to the Arab world through the Palestinians. The Zionist regime is using the Palestinians as a bridge to link it with the Arab world by signing economic agreements. This is why we see the Zionists giving greater importance to talks on economic issues with the Palestinians, as their objective is to gain economic influence in the Arab world and the Middle East.

The U.S. role in this regard is to abolish the concept of the "Arab world" so that it can create a strategic, political, and economic region in the Middle East within an international order which conforms to U.S. interests. It is for this reason that the United States speaks of the Middle East and not of the Arab world, and is considering using Turkey as a strong factor in security, political, and economic transactions in the region.

I imagine that the future position of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be difficult as the United States is proposing to embargo it unless it accepts U.S. conditions. In the U.S. scheme of things, a toppling of the Islamic system is not necessary, as long as it conforms to U.S. plans in the region and retreats where U.S. policies are concerned. This is something that Iran has not accepted so far.

Therefore, the current economic situation will exert greater pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran as economic relations increase. This will also be true from a security point of view. Iran should be especially prepared, as this plan has some dangerous elements. We have complete faith that the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and President Hashemi- Rafsanjani, will follow these developments through the Supreme National Security Council or other bodies. It is also the obligation of the Muslim Iranian people to ward off these new plots—that is the economic, security, and political embargo by the United States—and they should remain steadfastly their leadership. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Attempts To Bolster Currency

NC1105184894 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Beirut, May 11 (AFP)—Lebanon's central bank has sold 115 million dollars from its reserves since Monday to bolster the Lebanese pound, which came under pressure after Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri decided to boycott the government.

Bankers and government officials said the central bank, which has reserves of around 2.7 billion dollars, wanted to maintain the current exchange rate of 1,689.50 pounds to the dollar.

The last such intervention occurred last August, amid speculation triggered by a major Israeli military offensive in southern Lebanon.

Al-Hariri, a Sunni Moslem, decided Sunday to boycott government meetings after plans for a reshuffle aimed at including more Christian figures were opposed by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, himself a Christian, and the parliament speaker Nabih Birri, a Shiite Moslem.

Al-Hariri ordered the postponement of the weekly cabinet session.

The billionaire prime minister's appointment in October 1992 and his plans to rebuild war-shattered Lebanon at a cost of up to 12 billion dollars helped to attract back Western and Arab investors to Lebanon.

But his 30-member Syrian-backed government, made up equally of Christian and Moslem ministers, has failed to enjoy the trust of many Lebanese political and religious leaders, namely the Christians.

The situation has been exacerbated with the recent arrests of dozens of former Christian militiamen, including former warlord Samir Ja'ja', in connection with a February church bombing and a 1991 political killing.

Press Regrets U.S. Statement on Terrorism

JN1205100494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "An Improper Beginning," the AL-BA'TH newspaper says: At the beginning of next week U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the region again after he toured its capitals two weeks ago, but his mission of giving a push to the peace process has not achieved any results due to the Rabin government's stands which pushed the peace talks to a stalemate.

The paper adds: What makes things uncomfortable is that Mr. Christopher begins his new tour of the region with the statement issued by his department on terrorism and the states which protect terrorism, in which the name of Syria, along with the names of other states, was included. This is not a good and appropriate beginning, especially since the U.S. State Department's statement is unrealistic and based on many fallacies, in addition to the fact that it is hostile and provocative.

AL-BA'TH says: If this statement is meant to pressure Syria, Syria has never yielded and will never yield to pressures from any one.

The paper adds: We would have hoped and wished that Secretary Christopher had not sent this statement as an opening message concerning efforts to reactivate the peace process. This is because this is an improper message and the address to which it was sent is completely wrong.

The paper says: Christopher is returning to the region based on his statements that he has positive ideas on the Syrian-Israeli track. Undoubtedly, everyone who loves just and comprehensive peace hopes that Christopher will something in his quiver that justifies his optimistic tone, and that the ideas he is talking about will be based on U.S. success in persuading the intransigent side which is rebelling against the international legitimacy; namely Israel, to accept the indispensable bases of making progress toward a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper stresses that Christopher will find in Syria every concern about a just and comprehensive peace, and sincere cooperation to put the peace process on the road leading to this peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria is working for peace in the open. It will not accept a humiliating peace. Moreover, it will not do anything that would be shameful to announce. It is either an honorable and just peace or no peace.

Under the headlines "The Basis for Peace," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: He is mistaken who thinks that Syria would accept less than the full restoration of the Golan, in addition to occupied southern Lebanon. This is because full withdrawal is the basis for a comprehensive peace, and he who is concerned about a just and comprehensive peace must also be faithful to the pillars and constants of peace which were approved at the Madrid Conference.

The paper adds: Israel has imagined it can have peace and occupation together. Sometimes it slandered Syria's stands, and other times Lebanon's stands. It has always sought to entrap this or that party in a separate deal, something which was achieved in the labyrinths of Oslo which led to the Cairo agreement that imposed Israeli trusteeship on the Palestinian Arab people and their destinies.

The paper adds: Israel cannot present the agreement with the Palestinian side as an example of partial solutions which it seeks to achieve on the other tracks of negotiations, or use it as a pretext to peddle such unilateral deals, and at the same time exclude the bases of the peace process and the pillars governing the Madrid conference, foremost of which is the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Proceeding from this important point, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed, when he received U.S. Secretary of State Christopher early this month, the need to tackle the major issues of the peace process in order to guarantee making progress. Also based on this, Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi have called for adhering to the Madrid bases and for further coordination among the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks. This is in order to foil Israel's attempts to deal separately with each Arab side and drag it into partial solutions that have nothing to do with the Madrid bases and the essence of a just and comprehensive peace, which is based on full withdrawal and resolving all aspects of the conflict to guarantee the establishment of a peace that would end all factors of tension and chaos, and fulfills the international community's desire for stability and security in the region.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Peace cannot be established without an accurate implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions which Israel seeks to bypass through secret deals and partial solutions which entrench occupation and give Israel peace and land together, something which is impossible.

Under the headline "The Israeli Withdrawal," the newspaper TISHRIN says: News agencies cited informed sources as saying that the U.S. secretary of state's Middle East tour this time will be confined to Syria and Israel, and that it is aimed at giving the Syrian-Israeli track a push forward and at achieving tangible progress on the road to a just and entrenched peace in the region.

TISHRIN adds: It is known that Christopher held lengthy talks in both occupied Jerusalem and Damascus during the previous tour. It is no longer a secret that Syria adhered to the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan as a basic condition for peace. At the same time, Israel gave first priority to its

security, after which withdrawal will follow or will be achieved in phases to test Syria's peace intentions, as the Tel Aviv rulers say.

The paper adds: Talk about probing Syria's peace intentions is a kind of deception and cover for the occupation and its expansionist plans, taking into consideration that Syria has always complied with the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter and principles. Moreover, Syria has never been exposed to a single international denunciation. However, Israel has been violating the UN Security Council resolutions since 1947 until now. It has also violated the principles and charters of the international community. Based on this, Israel is the one which must be put to the test, considering that it is the aggressor and the occupier. Testing Israel's desire for peace can be represented by its full withdrawal from the Golan and all the occupied territories. The Knesset decision on the annexation of the Golan will never change this.

The paper says: Syria has made several appeals to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, the peace of the brave, and called on Israel's rulers to be brave and to be up to this peace. Until this moment, Syria has not seen any true Israeli response. On the contrary, Israel's rulers adopted the policy of procrastination, prevarication, and of evading the UN Security Council resolutions. They have just made statements on a certain withdrawal from the Golan. We want to reiterate that Syria rejects any phased settlements or partial solutions. This is because true peace hinges on the full restoration of the Golan, the dismantling of all settlements, and the return of the Syrian evacuees to their land and homes. Consequently, Israel's withdrawal does not constitute a concession, for withdrawal is dictated by the international law and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace in the Middle East depends on Israel's compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied territories paves the way for a firm and true peace. Without this, talk about peace will be a waste of time.

Commentaries View Upcoming Christopher Tour

JN0905083894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 9 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] Press commentaries today highlight the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to advance the peace process. They also speak about Israel's continued circumvention of the peace process.

In its editorial, TISHRIN comments on U.S. efforts to advance the peace process, and notes the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region next Saturday. The paper discusses the ideas conveyed by Christopher to Syria during his recent talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, saying: Informed quarters revealed at the time that the proposals conveyed by Christopher from Israel to Syrian officials during his recent visit did not include anything new. The ideas turned the priorities of the peace process upside down.

TISHRIN adds: Instead of Israel's public commitment to full withdrawal from the occupied territories in line with Security Council resolutions and the Madrid conference foundations, the Israeli ideas focused on security arrangements and then a peace treaty, and withdrawal eventually being achieved over a long period of time. Israel, in other words, would secure security and peace in advance. As for the land, it will continue to be under Israeli occupation and blackmail.

Syria has made it clear to Secretary Christopher that full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal is a top priority and that peace and security are a consequence of withdrawal and not the opposite.

After pointing out that Israel has dragged the Palestinians into the trap of autonomy and deprived them of their rights, TISHRIN adds: The land is the basic factor of conflict, and there can be no peace or security without the return of the land, which means regaining all of the Golan; Lebanon regaining its southern part in full; Jordan regaining its occupied territory; and the return of the evacuee and displaced Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanians to their land. Any solution to our conflict with Israel that is not based on returning the land is futile and has no future.

TISHRIN concludes: It is well known that Syria has insisted, right from the very beginning, on a comprehensive and just solution in the Middle East that ensures the implementation of Security Council resolutions to the letter, and consequently, the return of all the occupied territories. Syria has also rejected phased settlements and partial solutions and insisted on a just and comprehensive peace. It is enough for us to look at the Gaza-Jericho reality and the Palestinians' across-the-board displeasure to see the soundness of Syria's attitude and its concept of a true, honorable peace in the Middle East.

Peace does not agree with occupation and expansion and hegemony. There can be no peace without full Israeli withdrawal.

Under the headline "Syria Will Not Relinquish Any Iota of Rights," AL-BA'TH writes: Once again, there is news about a visit to the region shortly by the U.S. secretary of state to advance the peace process. The visit might include shuttle tours that serve his mission.

The paper adds: Israeli sources have acknowledged that the gap is still wide between the proposals made by Israel and conveyed by the U.S. secretary to Damascus recently and the Syrian reply to these proposals.

AL-BA'TH adds: If we contrast the two positions, it is possible to assert that the Rabin government has continued to try to circumvent the peace process and evade

a serious discussion that addresses the substance of this process. This is done through adopting the principle of separate solutions and partial deals.

The paper stresses that just and comprehensive peace in the region will not be achieved except through commitment to the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, in line with the foundations of the peace process to which Syria has committed itself as a strategic option.

It is natural, therefore, that the gap will remain wide between the Syrian and Israeli positions, as a result of the Rabin government's rejection of the peace initiative and Syria's commitment to this initiative.

The paper concludes that separate solutions do not serve peace. Depending on the Oslo accord is a trick that is convincing only to those who abandon pan-Arab rights. Syria can never relinquish an iota of these rights.

'Practical Ideas' Sought

JN1005120394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH discusses the U.S. secretary of state's new tour in the region. It says: It is almost certain that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the region next Saturday [14 May] and that his tour may be limited to shuttle missions between Syria and Israel in an attempt, as he has said, to activate the stagnant peace talks and, hence, crystallize a formula that will push the peace process forward.

It is well known that the U.S. secretary was in the region not long ago. In that tour, he tried to bring about some progress on the Israeli-Syrian track. That objective, however, was not achieved because of the Israeli position that remained unchanged, refusing to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy, on whose basis the peace process was started. Several Western, and even Israeli media organs, have reported the U.S. Administration's dismay over the proposals which Christopher conveyed to Syria.

The paper believes the U.S. Administration has felt that the Israeli proposals are unable to push the peace process in the direction of achieving the just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, one can say that the Israeli proposals, as stressed by Syria, aim only to escape blame and do not serve the peace process and the conditions for its success. They only mean a new attempt to circumvent the peace process as a whole.

AL-BA'TH adds: If the peace process is to follow its correct path, then Israel should announce its complete and absolute compliance with the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy as an initial and basic step to achieve progress that would in turn achieve the desired peace.

The paper adds: Anything else would mean that Israel is continuing with the policy of maneuvering and procrastination out of its belief that it may be able to achieve other agreements, similar to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Here, we must stress once again that Syria, which is working very seriously on achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, will continue to reject the incomplete peace, the peace that would not return rights to their rightful owners.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We hope that Christopher's new tour will carry practical ideas to activate the stagnant peace process and place the region on the path of the just and comprehensive peace.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says in an editorial entitled "Christopher and the Israeli Obstacle:" : Rabin's government opposes any move toward the genuine peace, even if such a move comes from Washington. Warren Christopher knows this fact and knows for certain that Rabin's government has always sought to undermine the Madrid formula and suspended the Washington talks. He also knows that Israel abhors the principle of just and comprehensive settlement and prefers, instead, to sign separate, secret deals, similar to the one it struck with the PLO, that would give Israel everything, deprive the Arabs of their rights, and maintain the Israeli occupation and hegemony in the region. Therefore, the results of Christopher's forthcoming tour will not be different from those of previous tours if the United States continues to refuse to apply pressure on Israel and continues to supply it with all kinds of advanced weapons.

TISHRIN adds: President Clinton's administration has announced its compliance with the principle of comprehensive settlement that is based on the UN resolutions. Syria and the other Arab parties have responded positively to that U.S. trend. Only Israel rejected that principle and undermined all the opportunities that were made available in the region to achieve the just and permanent peace. This is the reality, which Washington is certainly aware of. It also knows that the Israeli obstacle is the one that prevented any success in the U.S. initiative and progress in the peace process.

The paper believes that if the U.S. secretary wants his forthcoming tour to succeed, then his efforts must be directed toward removing this obstacle and overcoming the difficulties which the Rabin government is fabricating in the face of the peace process.

The paper adds: This will only be achieved when Washington translates its peace intentions into reality and abandons the mailman role and exercises real pressure on Rabin's government to force it to accept the principles for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: If the U.S. secretary manages to remove the Israeli obstacle and the mines which the Rabin government has placed on the path of peace, then the chances for success in his mission will

certainly be guaranteed. Only then will the region enter a new era of the comprehensive and just peace that will end all forms of aggression, injustice, and occupation.

Dailies Stress 'Just Peace,' Criticize Accord

JN0805074294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Firm Stand," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has always proved it truly wants peace based on UN resolutions and the principles of international law. It has shown during all stages of the peace process that it is ready to respond to any effort to entrench the bases of a just and comprehensive peace that will ensure an end to injustice and occupation. AL-THAWRAH notes that Syria has repeatedly announced that the peace for which it is working and exerting every effort is the peace that can lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and all other occupied Arab territories, that can entrench the values of right and justice, and that can lead to the restoration of all Arab rights.

The newspaper adds: Syria has rejected phased steps and unilateral solutions and has stood firmly against Israeli attempts to divide the solution. This is because Syria depends, in its peaceful trends, on objective and logic realities, which no one can deny or ignore, foremost of which is the reality that peace cannot come in installments or stages and that if it is not just and comprehensive, it will not be a real and deep-rooted peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria has offered all it can to preserve the credibility of the peace process and to save the process from any deviation from its specified goals. Moreover, Syria has always resorted to UN resolutions and the law of international legitimacy to refute Israel's allegations, to prevent its calls for partial and unilateral solutions, and to prove the futility of these offers.

Concluding, the newspaper says: There is no doubt that Syria's eagerness to provide a suitable climate to make the peace process successful comes from its concern about regaining all the Arab territories and rights and also from its desire to save the region from the whirlpools of confusion and instability that are threatening more war disasters and tragedies. Syria adheres to this noble goal that is sought by all nations and to the peace process as a valuable and important opportunity that should lead to a real and strong peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN writes in its editorial on the atmosphere of disappointment and bitterness, which the occupied Arab territories are experiencing as a result of the signing of the self-rule accord. It points out that our kinsfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are still in shock because the accord has resulted in certain arrangements and measures that have given Israel all it wants, including occupation; control of crossing points, bridges, and roads; security and protection for the settlers; and absolute Israeli sovereignty over political, defense, and foreign affairs.

TISHRIN notes that the accord will protect and achieve Israel's goals in devouring and controlling territories. This, the paper says, indicates that by signing the self-rule accord, Israel has lifted a heavy burden from its shoulders, namely, its complete failure to guarantee security for its occupation and its settlers and to confront and limit the intifadah.

TISHRIN adds: The accords' stipulations, annexes, and maps conflict with the Palestinian people's will, have made gains for the occupation, and are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people's right to independence, freedom, and self-determination. This conflict, the paper says, will not last because nations' fate cannot be determined by fragile accords or unilateral policies that have nothing to do with nations' rights and real trends toward full independence.

TISHRIN asserts that the current insistence in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem on the continuation of the intifadah against the occupied forces and settlers is viewed as part of our people's determination not to bow to the policy of concession that began with the Oslo talks and that produced an agreement that emptied the peace process of its essence.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is natural for the Arab parties taking part in the peace process, namely, Syrian, Lebanon, and Jordan, to hasten to coordinate their positions and stress their adherence to the principles of a just and comprehensive solution and to the Madrid conference formula that calls for Israel's total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Statement Notes Israeli Human Rights Violations

JN0705193294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tahir al-Husami, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations and Conferences, this morning presented a Foreign Ministry statement to the [UN] committee investigating Israeli violations of human rights in the Golan and the occupied Arab territories. The committee is led by Stanley Kalpage, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United Nations.

The statement notes that Israel used all sorts of methods that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the Hague Conventions of 1907, as well as international humanitarian law, in order to change the identity of the territories and the people. Israel has also used these methods in order to judaize these territories and exploit their resources to plant settlements, settlers, and military fortifications in order to exercise oppression, repression, aggression, and expansion.

The statement says that, throughout the past few decades, it has become clear to the entire world how Israel has been destroying the villages and Arab features of the Golan, most notably the city of al-Qunaytirah. The number of villages and urban centers that have been wiped off the map has reached more than 240. Moreover, the number of inhabitants of Syrian Golan that have been displaced by Israel has reached more than 120,000 people. Israel has plundered these people's resources and carried out a policy of removing the Arab identity of the occupied Golan and of obliterating its Arab features.

The statement also notes the Israeli's repressive methods and hostile policies against the Syrian Arab inhabitants, which are aimed at isolating them from their Arab surroundings and imposing an Israeli identity on them. The statement also notes the suffering of the inhabitants in terms of poverty and poor living, health, and educational conditions, in addition to fomenting sectarian hatred among the inhabitants.

The statement also notes that Israeli practices, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in the occupied Arab territories, are a result of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories since 1967. The statement adds that Israel will not stop these practices unless the Israeli occupation of these territories is removed.

In conclusion, the statement says that Syria has provided a chance for a just and comprehensive peace that achieves Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and secures the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination in implementation of UN resolutions and international legitimacy. However, Israel is still obstructing progress in the peace process.

Afterward, the committee met with a number of eyewitness deportees from the occupied territories. Members of the committee listened to the deportees' statements on Israeli practices and the methods of interrogation and torture used by the Israeli authorities against the Arab inhabitants. Moreover, the committee was briefed on practices by Israeli authorities on how the citizens are deported.

Iran

Paper Says Message From U.S. on 'Opening Direct' Talks

NC1205111694 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 12 (AFP)—The United States recently sent a message to Iran on opening direct and formal negotiations, a newspaper said Thursday.

The written message contained assurances that the United States did not seek to undermine the Islamic republic and urged Iran "not to take seriously" anti-Tehran comments made by a US official during a recent Gulf tour, the daily SALAM said.

The assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, Robert Pelletreau, said earlier this week in the United Arab Emirates that Iran was a potential threat and he renewed US pledges to defend the region.

Tehran and Washington broke diplomatic ties in 1980 after Iranian radical students stormed US embassy here and took its staff hostage.

The United States has on several occasion called for direct negotiations to improve ties, but the two sides have yet to make a breakthrough.

The latest message also expressed concern over Russia's "future threats" against the region and said Iran was geographically "well-placed to counter such an influence," SALAM said.

But the paper said the message also criticised Iran's alleged human rights violations and support for international terrorism.

President Accuses UK of Bugging London Embassy

Details Charges

LD1105162994 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—The British Government has bugged the Iranian Embassy in London in breach of the international laws and regulations, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed here today.

He made the remark during his speech at the end of the Iranian press festival, where he said the Iranian staff at the embassy could discover the hidden microphones, installed by the British MI-6.

"The British Government has launched propaganda moves in order to overshadow the issues," said the president.

Britain has accused Iran of collaboration with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), in a bid to prevent a blatant fiasco against the British Government.

Details of the president speech will be aired later.

The president said the British Government made the accusation of Tehran's collaboration with IRA after Iran charged the British Government with planting a microphone at Iranian Embassy in London to spy on the activities of the embassy staff.

"In fact the (British) accusation was made almost immediately after the discovery of the microphone," stressed the president.

President Rafsanjani said the British accusations were "white faced lies" and unfounded for which Britain did not provide any evidence.

He said the discovery of the microphone could lead to a big scandal for London but the British Government launched a propaganda ballyhoo in coordination with the British press to create a smoke screen and cover up the issue. Hashemi also expressed surprise that all dailies and magazines in Britain, even the ones on the left, began attacking Iran "in unison", a fact that showed the press in Britain was not that independent after all.

Elsewhere, the president said imperialism has launched a conspiracy to undermine the people's morale, and force them to believe that they had achieved nothing from the victory of the Islamic revolution.

He regretted that a few local press follow the imperialist press, however, he asked the Iranian press to cover both the weak points and strong points.

"The press should avoid biased attitudes, and refrain from proposing factional issues, but try to fullfil their duties by taking into account the national interests," said the president.

President Rafsanjani said that he had tried to create a free atmosphere for the press, and added that he would never allow a writer to come under pressure because of expressing his or her ideas.

"The total press system in Iran have rendered very good services, and I expect them to take a more fair position concerning the issues."

Press Urged To Aid Probe

LD1105181794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] The first press festival ended this afternoon with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the presentation of prizes to the outstanding press in the country.

In his speech, the president considered the progress of the country's press to be towards perfection and described the press festival as a necessity for this stage in the era of the reconstruction of the country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for press freedom in the country and added: Press freedom in Iran

is at a very high level. Even those in the press who do not have a friendly approach enjoy the same freedom.

The president stressed the need for the press to come to the aid of the government when necessary and added: When the British Government embarked on a hue and cry against us in the current month [Iranian month beginning 21 April] as a preemptive action after a bugging device was discovered at the Iranian Embassy, the press did not show any perceptiveness [hassasiyyat neshan-nadadand]. Professionals realize the press should come to the aid of the government at such times. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Comments

LD1105191294 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman told IRNA here tonight that the British Government in violation of all diplomatic regulations had bugged the Iranian Embassy in London.

Asked when the earliest evidences was found in this connection, Mahmoud Mohammadi said the earliest signs were discovered three weeks ago.

"Naturally after the discovery of the first clue, the embassy staff tried to complete their investigations for the discovery of all the (eavesdropping) devices, and this needed time," Mohammadi said in answer to a question as to why the issue was not disclosed earlier.

Of course, he said, the British officials saw themselves facing a big scandal as soon as they felt the first disruptions in their bugging system, thus accusing Iran of collaboration with I.R.A.

The accusations covered by the British press were mocked even by other European press, some of them describing the British claims as "sheer propaganda."

Government Spokesman Interviewed

NC1205080694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 12 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammadi by unidentified station announcer—live]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, my colleague informed you in the news that last night President Hashemi-Rafsanjani exposed Britain's degradation in carrying out anti-Iranian espionage activities. To give you more information on the issue, let us speak to Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammadi on the telephone right now:

[Announcer] As you know, our president revealed the British espionage activities against Iran. We will be grateful if you can provide more details for our listeners. When was the affair discovered?

[Mohammadi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the first week of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May], when work was being carried out on one of the walls in our embassy in London, workers found a British electronic surveillance device planted in the wall. The issue was assessed so that all the British espionage activities might be investigated and every action that contravenes diplomatic parlance and the Vienna Convention regarding Britain's official espionage might be exposed.

The British politicians tried to preempt this with a hasty defensive reaction to cover up this aberration and actions that violate diplomatic practices. They thus committed another blunder. They propounded the issue of our collaboration with the IRA.

[Announcer] Thank you. It appears that in its efforts to cover up its humiliation stemming from its espionage, the London government is pursuing other objectives with this propaganda clamor. How do you appraise Britain's overall objectives with this latest propaganda outcry?

[Mohammadi] Initially, these were attempts to conceal the espionage affair and violation of diplomatic practices and ethics. At the same time, Britain sought to mask the domestic problems with which it has been grappling for quite some time. By raising such issues in its foreign policy, Britain aims to divert attention from internal and external policy issues.

We must mention our diplomatic efforts and moves regarding the rights of the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the conflict between our support for Bosnia-Herzegovina and British policy. In this context the hue and cry raised by the British was designed to counteract our policy. When the British perceived their vulnerability and isolation in their support of Rushdie against Muslim public opinion they were forced to concoct a new issue to divert their public and replace the Rushdie issue in this manner.

As a result, the objective pursued by Britain was that world attention should be directed toward a new issue that would in some way relate to the United States' accusatory and domineering policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Announcer] I thank you for your explanations and Your Excellency's participation in this talk.

[Mohammadi] I thank you. Goodbye.

Esteemed listeners, the latest news given to me by my colleagues cites the BBC quoting a British Government spokesman on the revelations of London's espionage against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The spokesman said: We have nothing to say in this regard.

Commentary Views Aims of 'Espionage'

NC1205092394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 12 May 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The news of the espionage committed by British security officials who installed surveillance devices in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in London, an incident that was revealed yesterday by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, removes the veil from a series of ambiguities relating to Britain's latest allegations against Iran.

Our president, who was addressing the press festival yesterday, said the British Government violated international norms by planting a secret microphone in our embassy in London. It also raised the controversy of collaboration between Iran and the IRA.

About two weeks ago, the British Foreign Office claimed that its security personnel had discovered documentary evidence that the Islamic Republic of Iran was providing funds to the IRA through its agents and was seeking to plan to deliver weapons to the IRA too. These claims were immediately endorsed by the minister for Northern Ireland affairs in the House of Commons. But not much had happened when a spokesman for Sinn Fein—the political wing of the IRA—refuted the British claim as a baseless shot in the dark and unfounded propaganda, adding: To eclipse its defeat in organizing peace talks on Ireland, the British Government has resorted to such accusations.

Similarly, three days after the British allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and following a swift and categorical rebuttal by our officials, London's newspapers revealed that the accusations by John Major's government were totally unfounded and bereft of any grounds or evidence. In this regard, THE SUNDAY TIMES, in its 1 May edition, wrote: The British Government has no acceptable documentary evidence to present to the court.

It thus appears that the veteran statesmen of London resorted to espionage and an overt violation of international laws by planting listening devices in our embassy to pursue objectives that were more important than their international credibility and reputation. Many possibilities can be enumerated in an analysis of these actions and London's desired objectives. No one should ignore that John Major's government and the Conservative party led by him are confronting serious problems stemming from a dichotomy in the party. This problem is so crucial that there is talk of the resignation of John Major's government.

Despite the defensive action by the British Government in leveling charges against the Islamic Republic of Iran being nipped in the bud, and neither British officials nor the British rumormongering newspapers presenting any plausible evidence of Iran's support for the Irish secessionists, the British Government strove to initiate this unfounded rumor in a so-called preemptive move to prevent humiliation regarding its espionage activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy.

The British Government—by trampling international laws underfoot—has confirmed that it attaches no importance to its commitments to international rights and diplomatic immunity and that when the country's interests dictate, it considers any illegal activity justified.

As a country professing reciprocal respect for others' rights, Britain has—by its recent acts of espionage in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy—again revealed its interventionist and aggressive nature. The past record of espionage is nothing new for the British echelons. They believe that the colonial world of past centuries continues and that Britain has the right to interfere in others' affairs and to trample upon diplomatic immunity.

For such countries, wholesome relations based on reciprocal interests have no meaning. What is important is getting information and capitalizing on the amicable approach of the other side. The issue of British spying on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy is not the first such incident. It is certainly not the last. Every country should be vigilant, aware that such intentions and actions might not be confined to one embassy in Britain alone.

UK Embassy Refuses To Comment

LD1205095794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Our correspondent tried to contact the British Embassy in Tehran today and seek the official view of the London government about Britain's new espionage activity against Iran.

The British charge d'affaires refrained from any form of conversation with our correspondent. It was stated via the embassy secretary: The position of the British Government will be announced later.

A British Foreign Office official announced last night: London has nothing to say about this.

British Envoy Summoned

LD1205104294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] In an interview with the deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, a few minutes ago, our correspondent asked him to give further details about the espionage action by British agents against Iran.

During the interview, Mr. Va'ezi gave a detailed description of the spying equipment installed at the Iranian Embassy in London and how it was discovered, He also described the Foreign Ministry's actions on the matter.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Va'ezi, if possible please give our dear listeners more details on the discovery of the British Government eavesdropping device at the Iranian Embassy in London.

[Va'ezi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. About two weeks ago, when tearing down a wall in the new Iranian Embassy building in London, we discovered a bug installed and realized that a bug had been placed there. With the discovery of the bug, because of intelligence and operational considerations, and in order to conduct further investigation, we did not disclose the matter and continued our investigations until it was made public yesterday.

The bug weighs about half a kilogram. A battery has been fitted inside it. It has a number of parts and in effect acts as a transmitter. In any case, this is the latest thing we can announce in connection with the bug.

[Correspondent] Please tell us what measures the Iranian Foreign Ministry has so far taken in response to this action of the British Government?

[Va'ezi] After our investigation at the embassy was concluded the British Embassy's charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned today by the director general for Western Europe. A strong protest was made against this action of the British Government. We asked them to give us more explanations as quickly as possible. In any case, future explanations by the British Government will determine the next steps.

Basically, we consider this and the British Government's behavior toward us as a weak point in our relations and in line with Britain's overall policy on Iran.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Va'ezi] Thank you. [end recording]

Alleged Bugging Termed 'Huge Disgrace'

LD1205105094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 12 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The discovery of a microphone in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in London has exposed the espionage activities of the British Government against our country. This microphone, concealed inside a wall, had been transmitting the ongoing talks and conversations in the Iranian Embassy in London to Britain's espionage apparatus.

The action of the British Government in eavesdropping and diplomatic espionage in the embassy is totally contrary to international laws and is considered as interference in our country's internal affairs. The embassy of a country is regarded as that country's territory and, on the basis of the Vienna 1961 Convention, enjoys special privileges and immunity. The British Conservative government therefore, by resorting to espionage in the Iranian Embassy, has violated the Iran's sovereignty, too.

The British Government, which considers itself the vanguard of international law, human rights, the fight against terrorism, and other similar titles, has directly resorted to espionage inside the Iranian Embassy in London. Almost simultaneously with the exposure of the British espionage activity in our London embassy, John Major's government, in order to provide a cover for this huge disgrace, began some baseless propaganda on contacts between Iran and the Irish Republican Army. This show was not even effective in Britain, so much so that the British press and media too confessed that these allegations are false and vague.

Unfortunately Britain, this permanent member of the Security Council and the so-called protector of international peace and security—the same as some of its western allies—is pursuing its anti-human objectives without care for any regulations and law. This country's behavior in the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue has exposed in the best possible manner the true face of this so-called free democratic state. Britain brings pressure to bear on any state which opposes its policies, by resorting to such accusations as human rights violations, attempting to obtain nuclear weapons, and terrorism. Whereas Britain itself is classed as one of the major international lawbreakers.

BBC Report on Sirjani Debunked; Charges Cited

NC0805130294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 May 94 p 2

[From the news desk]

[Text] The British Government radio [BBC] announced last night that 100 writers and broad-minded [rowshanfekran] persons abroad, who have fled Iran, sent a letter to Butrus-Ghali expressing concern about the fate of 'Ali Akbar Sa'idi-Sirjani.

Support for Sa'idi-Sirjani by this group of broad-minded individuals comes at a time when a number of so-called writers in Iran have also tried to lobby for Sa'idi-Sirjani.

It is worth mentioning that Sa'idi-Sirjani has been charged with smuggling of drugs and with corruption and was arrested a while ago by antidrug officials.

One of these broad-minded persons who supports Sa'idi-Sirjani told our correspondent: The charges leveled against Sa'idi-Sirjani are not unforgivable sins, as most of the writers and broad-minded persons indulge in taking drugs.

In answer to a question on his views about the smuggling of drugs, he said: The court should prove this charge.

When asked what was the meaning of the collecting of signatures at home and abroad, he said: If the government arrests people for these reasons, there are many who will be concerned!

It may be mentioned that on 25 April the director general of internal security of the Information Ministry announced in an interview that Sa'idi-Sirjani and Niaz Kermani were members of the SAVAK [shah's intelligence organization] and have admitted to the transporting, distribution, and use of drugs. They have also confessed to producing, stocking, and distributing liquor and to immoral acts.

Rowhani Receives Canadian Envoy, Denounces 'Arafat

LD1005154694 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani said on Tuesday that inking any peace accord without the consent of the Palestinian people was a "big insult" to that nation.

"A real peace can be established only through Israel's unconditional compliance with U.N. resolutions, return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and holding of a referendum," Rowhani told Canadian Ambassador to Iran Donald McLennan.

Rowhani, who is the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) reiterated that Palestine was not confined to a single person and that it was the Palestinian nation that should give final approval to such an important issue as peace.

"We have time and again expressed our views on the Palestinian issue...we have never decided, nor will we ever decide, to take a military action in the region," he said.

The Iranian parliamentarian maintained that it is only the Palestinian people, and no one else, who can make decision on the fate of Palestine. "What has been signed by (Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat is an insult to the Palestinian people," he said. He felt confident that the Palestinian people will one day seize power as the majority black people of South Africa did.

The Majles vice speaker also criticized the United Nations for its failure to fulfil its duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina in defiance of its charter.

He said that in view of the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region as a key energy supply center, Iran's strong presence in the region has always guaranteed security of the region and will continue to do so in the future.

Pointing to the importance of parliamentary relations between Iran and Canada, Rowhani called for exchange of delegations between the parliaments two countries.

'Expert' Decries 'Arafat's 'Obvious Treason'

LD1005104394 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Within three months since the tragedy in February of opening fire at Palestinian worshippers at the town of al-Khalil [Hebron], Yasir 'Arafat betrayed more than 46 years of resistance and struggle for liberation of Palestine. He revived the shameful memory of Camp David through signing of an accord with the Zionist regime. Signing the accord was followed by waves of violence and people's hatred against the PLO leaders and the Zionist regime.

The accord known as limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho was signed in Cairo on May 4 between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister of the Zionist regime Yitzhaq Rabin. Even the most optimistic observers doubt the successful implementation of the accord in view of its ambiguity. Palestinian activists believe that the intifada will determine the fate of Palestine and that the Palestinian nation will never betray the blood of thousands of Palestinian martyrs.

An expert on the Middle East issues, Dr. Amir Reza'i, told IRNA Tuesday that the Gaza-Jericho plan was an obvious treason to the cause of Palestine and the main objective of the plan was to suppress intifada. He said the Zionist regime is now trying to sow discord among the Palestinians in an attempt to eliminate their movement. The extensive protest movement in Jericho, Gaza Strip, Halhul, al-Khalil and Ramallah in recent days showed that the plan of the Zionists will not succeed and remain a mirage for Israeli leaders, he said.

A general study of the plan formulated by the United States, Russia and some other western states in Madrid conference in 1991 indicated that the only matter that they ignored was the interests of the Palestinians, Reza'i said.

Country Ready To Help Solve India-Pakistan Dispute

LD1105134594 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Indian ambassador to Tehran Ramesh Chandra Arora and Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here Wednesday exchanged views on Tehran-New Delhi bilateral cooperation and on issues related to Kashmir. Arora expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of bilateral relations and hoped for further boosting of ties. He also expressed hope that Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would visit his country.

Borujerdi also hoped for removal of tension between Pakistan and India and said that Iran is ready to assist both India and Pakistan in solving their disputes.

Oil Minister Welcomes Japanese Investment

LD1005104194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] In a meeting last night with Japanese Government officials and industrialists in Tokyo, our country's oil minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives special priority to meeting Japan's oil and gas needs and it welcomes investment in and help toward the development of gas and oil fields by foreign companies, including Japanese ones, within the framework of the country's second development plan.

Mr. Gholamreza Aqazadeh added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is, undoubtedly, an important gateway to activity in Central Asia and, with this in mind and in view of Iran's exceptional geographic position, the cooperation of Japanese companies in production in Iran with the aim of exporting to Central Asia and to Persian Gulf littoral countries is one of the interesting possibilities worth considering in the framework of cooperation between the two countries.

Our country's oil minister and his accompanying delegation will leave Tokyo today for Seoul for a four-day visit to South Korea.

Visit of Belarusian Deputy Prime Minster Reported

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD1005154794 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Nikolay N. Kostikov here Tuesday called for further expansion of ties between Tehran and Minsk in political, economic and commercial areas.

Kostikov, talking to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, expressed hope that his country could export goods to the Persian Gulf states via Iran.

He also told Velayati that he had reached some economic agreements with Iranian offcials.

Velayati announced Iran's readiness to allow commodities made by Belarus to be transited to the Persian Gulf.

Kostikov arrived here on Monday at the head of a high ranking politico-economic delegation at the invitation of Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq.

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD1005211094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikalay Kostikaw at a meeting in Tehran today with Foreign Minister Velayati gave some explanations about the industrial situation and the commercial ties between Belarus and the rest of the world. He also called for further expansion of diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries.

Also at a meeting today with Commerce Minister Ol-Eshaq, Kostikaw said: There are no problems in the way of any economic activities, investment, and private and government sector experience between us and Iran.

At the meeting the commerce minister said: In terms of specialist manpower and industrial and agricultural products and political security, your country possesses a combination of growth factors. We shall try so that mutual ties are expanded in favour of both countries.

The Belarus deputy prime minister also met and conferred with Mr. Akbar Torkan, minister of roads and transport, this afternoon.

Calls For Industrial Cooperation

LD1205081894 Tehran IRNA in English 0425 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The visiting deputy prime minister of Belarus, Mikolay M. Kostikaw, in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here Wednesday voiced his country's readiness for industrial and medical cooperation with Iran.

He referred to industrial achievements in his country especially in such fields as textiles, consumer goods and machine manufacturing and called for Tehran-Minsk cooperation in the said areas.

In reply Ne'matzadeh said Iran is interested in bilateral cooperation with Belarus in [such] areas as joint venture, transfer of technology, chemicals, electronics and medicine.

Kostikaw, heading a high-ranking economic and political delegation, arrived here Monday at the invitation of Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq.

Relations With South Africa Resumed

LD1205082494 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy was opened in South Africa Tuesday simultaneously with ceremonies marking the victory of the African National Congress (ANC) in recent elections and abolition of apartheid in that country.

In a joint communique, Iran and South Africa officially announced resumption of formal diplomatic relations.

Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi and his delegation attended the ceremonies held on the same occasion in Johannesburg.

Hashemi lauded the struggles of South African people against colonialism and apartheid.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and upon orders by the founder of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeyni, Iran started supporting the oppressed South African people, Hashemi added.

Tehran cut off relations with the apartheid regime of South Africa in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Commerce Minister Wants To Expand Ties With Africa

LD1005191394 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Iranian Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq today proposed that the Iranian Government explore grounds for the establishment of extensive relations with the African states.

Speaking at a seminar on promotion of economic ties with Africa, the commerce minister said: The government should prepare the grounds for the establishment of extensive economic ties with Africa by providing transport, banking, and insurance facilities as well as export guarantees and information. He said: The fact that there are 450 million Muslims living in the African continent makes it imperative to broaden Iran's ties with that continent on the basis of mutual interest. He added: The Iranian airlines and shipping companies are ready to invest in this field in an effort to promote economic relations between Iran and the African countries. He told the seminar that in 1992 only 2.09 percent of Iran's total exports were supplied to Africa and only 0.58 percent of the goods imported to the country came from that continent.

Velayati Receives Zimbabwean Defense Minister

LD1105121994 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—The defence minister of Zimbabwe Mowoon Mahaji in his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday, after describing the situation of some African countries that are involved in war called for Iran's support for establishing peace and stability in Africa. The foreign minister emphasizing the importance of peace and stability in Africa declared the preparedness of Islamic Republic of Iran for bringing peaceful means to fruitation [as received] in this region.

Commerce Minister: No Price Rise on Basic Goods

LD1005111594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The sum of $2 billion in foreign exchange and 703.17 trillion rials in domestic currency has been earmarked for the provision of basic goods and necessities. Announcing this today in a joint seminar held in Tehran by the heads of provincial trade associations and the directors of provincial commercial centers, Commerce Minister ol-Eshaq added: $800 million of this amount have been earmarked for subsidies for basic goods and $700 million for maintaining price equilibrium; in addition, $500 million have been earmarked for such necessities as paper, ironware, and tires. All of this will be calculated on the basis of foreign exchange at the rate of 1,750 rials.

He added: This year, the sum of 3.17 trillion rials in domestic currency has also been earmarked for subsidies for basic goods and the sum of 700 billion rials for subsidizing agricultural organizations. This amount represents a 70 percent growth over the previous year and, on this basis, we will see no price rises in these areas this year.

Mr. ol-Eshaq also referred to a proposal for regulating the market, which was recently approved by the organization for the protection of producers and consumers and by the economic council, and said: With the implementation of this proposal, from 1 Khordad [month beginning 22 May 1994], all goods will be priced, and this will create a framework for issues relating to foreign exchange rates, preventing price upheavals, and clarifying the trend of goods prices.

Bill Submitted on Banning Satellite Dishes

LD1105095994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpts] During today's open session of the Majles, a bill on the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in the Sea Search and Rescue Convention was approved. [passage omitted]

Also during today's open session of the Majles, a draft bill on banning private satellite receiver dishes, signed by a group of the Majles deputies, was submitted to the Majles presidium.

Pakistan

Radio Report on Bhutto, Israeli President Meeting Denied

BK1205103194 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 May 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 11—A Foreign Office spokesman while talking to THE MUSLIM Wednesday [11 May] night categorically denied that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held a meeting with Israeli President Weizman in South Africa.

Asked to comment on Israeli Radio's Persian language news about Benazir-Weizman meeting on May 10, the spokesman described it a fabrication. He said that it was part of the disinformation campaign of Israeli Radio to malign Pakistan by spreading lies. He said that in the past also, Israeli Radio had been spreading false news about such contacts.

Israeli Radio in its Persian language news broadcast at 7 pm on May 10, had stated that Israeli President Weizman held a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Ms Bhutto in South Africa. It said the experts were of the view that this unprecedented meeting was an indication that Pakistan was moving towards establishment of full-fledged diplomatic relations with Israel.

Bhutto Reiterates Support for 'Just' Kashmiri 'Struggle'

BK0805124694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said that Pakistan would continue to extend its full support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle against the Indian occupation forces so that they can achieve their right of self-determination according to the UN resolution.

Speaking at the installation ceremony of the new colonel commandant of Baloch Regiment, she reiterated that Pakistan will not budge an inch from its principled stand on Kashmir. The prime minister said no nation can be subjugated for long with bullets and swords. The day will come when the Kashmiris will be able to achieve their rights, she said.

The prime minister said Pakistan has no aggressive designs against any country. It believes in peaceful coexistence. It desires to have good neighborly relations with all on the basis of equality, but it cannot compromise on its principle just for the sake of friendship. Pakistan cannot allow anyone to cast an evil eye on its independence and solidarity. The prime minister said that the government is fully conscious of the needs of its armed forces and is taking all steps to meet their requirements. It is doing its best to keep the armed forces fully equipped to effectively defend the country to frustrate any aggression.

Spokesman Notes Recent Indian Missile Developments

BK1105133194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Pakistan has been conveying its concern to the United States and other countries about the deployment of Prithvi and continued development of Agni missile by India. Answering questions by newsmen at a briefing in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan pointed out to member countries of Missile Technology Control Regime that this will be a serious development. India could deploy these missiles with its nuclear capability, raising the specter of nuclear arms race and endangering peace and security in the horn of South Asia. He said Pakistan still hopes that international community will prevail over India to stop its reckless move toward this new arms race.

Comments Further on Deployment

BK1105145294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern over the Indian decision to deploy Prithvi and Agni missiles. A spokesman of the Foreign Office, while briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, said that Pakistan has informed the Missile Technology Control Regime countries, including USA, that the Indian decision will further aggravate the threat to peace and security in South Asia and unleash a specter of nuclear missile race in the region. He hoped that the world community will prevail upon India to stop this reckless move.

The spokesman said India has increased violations of the Line of Control and its helicopters had twice infiltrated into the territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the 5th of this month. He said three innocent civilians had been killed and five wounded by Indian firing during the last two weeks.

Referring to the recent spate of baseless allegations leveled by India regarding Pakistan's involvement in occupied Kashmir, the spokesman said this would further heighten tension between the two countries. In fact, the spokesman said, India was engaged in spreading terrorism in Pakistan. Pakistani troops had recently arrested two armed terrorists from Kotli sector, trained by India to carry out sabotage activities in Pakistan. Fifty-two kg of explosives was recovered from them.

The spokesman said that 2,000 Pakistani troops would be deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina by June this year under UN auspices. He said 40 of them are being trained in Germany, while rest of the contingent is getting training in Czechoslovakia [as heard] with German equipment.

Minister Discusses India, Kashmir, Other Issues

BK0805122094 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 8 May 94 p 8

[Text] Islamabad (APP)—Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said here Saturday that there was a total alienation with Indian rule in occupied Kashmir and, the Kashmiri people wanted only freedom.

Speaking on the topic "foreign policy agenda of Pakistan", at the round-table with the government organised by the economists conferences, at a local hotel, he said, "it is our considered opinion that India will not succeed in crushing the Kashmiri freedom struggle".

"This is the lesson of history, even recent history", he said, adding, "India is unlikely to be able to promote a viable internal political process in Kashmir. There is total alienation with Indian rule. The Kashmiri people want only freedom, Azadi", he said.

Pakistan, he said, believed that United States and its Western allies, as well as China, Russia and Japan, could play a critical role in promoting peace and security in South

Asia. He said, the United States enjoyed considerable influence with both India and Pakistan. "This can be used to convince New Delhi that in the emerging era, the path to greatness does not lie through the accumulation of arms or nuclear weapons or missile capability but through economic and social progress and modernisation", he stated.

He said, the past experience indicated that Pakistan and India would be able to resolve their mutual disputes only with the intercession of a third party. "Therefore, we welcome the recent proposal of the United Stated to promote multilateral talks on South Asian security. These talks will deal with the inter-related problems of non-proliferation, conventional arms, and development of weapons of mass destruction", he added. In the emerging era of international relations Sardar Asif said, Pakistan was faced with a series of challenges. But, it was also offered a number of opportunities. "With wisdom, patience, hard work and with the help of our friends, Pakistan can overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities", he said.

Elaborating the challenges, he said, these were mostly the legacy of the past of the colonial and cold-war eras.

Continuing, Sardar Asif said, "we are now entering into a new phase where Pakistan and the United States have agreed to develop their relationship despite the Pressler law which both governments have recognised as bad law and worse policy".

"A new cooperative engagement between Pakistan and the United States was agreed during the recent visit of the Deputy Secretary of Sate Talbott to Islamabad", he said.

About Sino-Pak relations, he said, despite strategic changes, "these remain firm and unchangeable". "Both countries are continuing to cooperate in a number of areas, encompassing economic, commercial and defence. Chinese trade and economic cooperation can in future be promoted through Pakistan with other countries in Central Asia, West Asia and South Asia. If peace can be established between Pakistan and India and in Afghanistan, exciting possibilities could be created for economic cooperation among the countries of these adjacent regions. This would open massive markets and unleash enormous potential for production and consumption", he maintained.

The emergence of independent states in Central Asia, he said, was a decisive and historic watershed.

"It ushered in a new era for a vast region stretching from the Aral to the Arabian Sea. We rejoice at the return to history and at the rich prospects of reviving our common traditional and cultural heritage. But the fundamental fact is that these newly-independent states are all landlocked. Their future progress and prosperity will, in large measure, depend on the exploitation of the shortest access to regions beyond. The ending of their isolation has only heightened their quest for alternative routes to the rest of the world. Central Asia needs to sell its surplus energy including gas and oil to the voracious markets in East Asia. We ourselves can benefit from these resources. Pipelines to our coast can provide the most economical route", he stated.

The shortest route to the sea for Central Asia is through Pakistan, he said, adding: "We offer the most convenient transit facilities for their exports to other markets. He said, there existed the requisite road and railway systems that could be extended to Central Asia. "Then, there are port facilities we can share with them. In reverse, our port city of Karachi has a vibrant commercial sector and can provide an ideal launching pad for the commercial operations of multinationals in Central Asia.

About Afghanistan, he said, it would always be vital to any strategic access to Central Asia. "In Afghanistan, the fruits of a heroic victory have been lost to parochial ambition. Instability in Afghanistan has direct implications for Pakistan, among other things, in the shape of drug smuggling and banditry on our borders". Pakistan, he said, was engaged in an active process of rebuilding peace in Afghanistan. "A durable solution can only be achieved through compromise among the Afghans themselves. "We hope to present some ideas to the Afghan leaders in the near future", he said, adding, Pakistan remained hopeful of success. [quotation marks as published]

"However, as in Kashmir, so also in Afghanistan there is an opportunity waiting to be grasped within a crisis that requires urgent solution. It should be remembered that there is relative peace in many parts of Afghanistan. With some courage and imagination, trade between Pakistan and Central Asia can be commenced through the southern route traversing Kandhar and Herat. New opportunities for trade, and more credible hope of receiving international assistance, can help to convince Afghan leaders that there is a greater premium in commerce than in further fighting", he added.

National Leaders Note Events in Karachi, Other Issues

BK0705172594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The all-party conference of national leaders in Karachi today adopted a resolution calling for the seizure of all illegal arms in Sindh Province. The conference participants condemned the politics of violence. The resolution says the time has now come for the government and the opposition to resolve their differences through negotiations, as their continued confrontation is against the interests of the province and the country. The resolution adds that since problems cannot be settled through the use of force, political problems should be resolved only through mutual dialogue.

The conference unanimously adopted another resolution, expressing the hope that Pakistan will not roll back its nuclear program unilaterally. The resolution says Pakistan has always opposed the use of force and its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. The

resolution also says the international community can easily assess India's ambitions from its recent statement about its nuclear program.

In yet another resolution, the conference appealed to Islamic countries to support the struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Peace Delegation Comments on Events in Afghanistan

BK1105103494 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 May 94 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, May 10—Following fresh peace efforts in Afghanistan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has agreed to step down from his office by the end of year in order to pave way for new democratic set-up.

Disclosing this at a news conference here on Tuesday, the peace delegation of Mutahidda Ulema Council led by its Deputy Secretary General, Prof Mohammad Yahya, who returned from Kabul on Monday evening, claimed that both the warlords of Afghanistan, Rabbani and Hekmatyar have agreed to their peace formula with the exception of two points, which were still to be resolved.

During their meetings with Afghan President and Prime Minister they found no real differences between the two rather they agreed in principle to the formation of an interim Shoora for framing electoral roll and meeting other requirements within a year [sentence as published]. But the bone of contention was that how and who would form the Shoora. Rabbani was of the view that Shoora should have at least one thousand members from all provinces while Hekmatyar wanted a Shoora of maximum hundred members only from Jehad forces, he disclosed.

Mohammad Yahya said that the main objective of the peace mission was to coordinate the peace efforts of Jalaluddin Haqqani, he has been making since Ramadzan last, for striking a patch-up between the warring factions. He claimed that because of his successful mediation the agreement between Rabbani and Hekmatyar was only a few steps away as the main irritants have been removed. He said that the two parties were tired of fighting and wanted to put an end to hostilities for good.

He said that during its three-day stay in Afghanistan, the delegation witnessed tremendous development in the peace process and considerable flexibility by the leaders of the warring factions as all of them were now ready to settle the dispute within the framework of the text of peace formula announced by the mediating commission of Haqqani. However, he alleged that some miscreants from both sides were sabotaging their efforts by escalating the fighting further.

He claimed that apart from political circles all segments in Afghanistan welcomed their peace efforts and insisted that their delegation should stay in Afghanistan till finding any possible solution to the crisis. He said Haqqani's commission was there to continue the peace plan.

He bitterly criticised the winding up of Pakistani Embassy in Afghanistan saying that this step of the government has enabled the "RAW" [Research and Analysis Wing] to use to use its open hand against Pakistan. He feared that the agents of "RAW" were fully active to create hatred among Afghans against Pakistan. He demanded of the government to reopen its Embassy in Kabul to encounter the anti-Pakistan activities of the "RAW".

Commenting on Mehmud Mestiri's efforts for paving way for the former monarch of Afghanistan Zahir Shah, he said that one of the main warring factions has categorically rejected him as a mediator.

Answering a query, he denied the impression that their peace efforts were aimed at providing relief to Rabbani for reestablishing his position.

U.S. Official's Remarks on 'Threat' of Using Force Noted

BK1005131994 Lahore JANG in Urdu 10 May 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S. Threat To Use Force"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of the Army has threatened that if certain countries do not abandon their nuclear programs, the United States will use force to terminate their programs. Addressing special centenary celebrations for the U.S. Army Command and Staff College, he said that some countries have acquired the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. The United States is trying to persuade them in a friendly manner, but it will not refrain from using force if these efforts fail. Ejazul Haq, a former Pakistani minister and member of the National Assembly who was present at the function, told JANG's special correspondent that although the secretary did not mention Pakistan in his speech, it was obvious that he was referring to us. This is because he addressed Ejazul Haq in particular before mentioning the threat to use force and excused himself to Haq when he did mention it.

The United States is keenly interested in nuclear nonproliferation. It is no secret that it is striving to realize this objective throughout the world. It is also evident, though, that the U.S. campaign against nuclear weapons is neither equitable nor impartial. It has no objection to certain countries' nuclear programs and is indirectly assisting and supporting the advancement and success of their programs. The most conspicuous example is Israel.

Informed sources are aware that Israel not only has the capability to produce nuclear weapons, it also has a huge stockpile of such weapons. Despite knowing this, the United States has never expressed any concern about Israel's nuclear capability or threatened Israel. On the contrary, Israel tops the list of countries receiving U.S. foreign aid. The two countries have pursued very close and longstanding technical cooperation. It would not be incorrect to say that the United States and Israel are two bodies sharing a single heart. It is also no secret why the United States has been ignoring the Israeli nuclear program. The United States considers Israel its closest

ally in the Middle East, like a virtual state of the United States, and is deeply interested in accelerating its defense and nuclear capabilities.

Similarly, although the United States keeps protesting against the Indian nuclear program, it has never adopted a tough stand against the increase in India's nuclear capability, as it has with Pakistan or North Korea. In fact, there were occasions when the United States—through France—indirectly helped India continue its nuclear program. Given the circumstances, the U.S. threat to use force against Pakistan is very regrettable and deserves to be condemned. This attitude is all the more amazing in view of the fact that Pakistan has already made some very rational and just proposals for winding up its nuclear program. Pakistan has proposed that the Indian Ocean be made a nuclear-free zone. Pakistan has expressed its readiness to open its nuclear installations for international inspection on the condition that India does the same.

Pakistan has also expressed its willingness to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty provided that India does as well. India has not made any positive response to these rational and practical proposals. The logical next step would have been for the United States and the Western powers to exert pressure on India to achieve the goal of nuclear nonproliferation. Even if we acknowledge that such pressure was exerted, we cannot deny it was done in a half-hearted manner.

During U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Talbott's recent visit to Pakistan, Pakistan expressed its willingness to implement any just proposal on nuclear nonproliferation. The Indian response, on the other hand, was disappointing. Under the circumstances, the U.S. secretary's threat of using force against Pakistan is incomprehensible and extremely regrettable. We are fully confident that despite the U.S. secretary's threat, Pakistan will adhere to its principled stand and that the United States will not succeed in bullying this country. It is inappropriate for the United States to use such language.

Certain quarters of the Pakistani Government are overly optimistic that a way can be found to provide limited defense aid to Pakistan despite the Pressler Amendment. The latest pronouncement by the U.S. secretary of the Army should be enough of an eye opener. The Pakistani Government should seriously make every possible effort to meet its defense needs through non-American sources. Also, the government should obtain the text of the secretary's speech, examine its implications, and lodge a protest with the U.S. Government if warranted.

Article Examines Efforts To End Dispute With India

BK0905135294 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 94 p 13

[Article by Ghani Eirabie: "India's Talks Offer a Ruse"]

[Text] The wonderful diplomatic art of saying "nothing in many words" seems to have been perfected by India in the six "non-papers" it has recently sent to Pakistan. They skirt the core issues between the two countries, but nonetheless New Delhi insists that "non-issues" be discussed at yet another—and perhaps equally futile—8th meeting between the two foreign secretaries.

One is left with the unhappy impression that the proposed exercise is designed to have the world believe that India and Pakistan are engaged in resolving the dispute on their own and so the international community need not concern itself with it. Whereas the unfortunate position is that the entire exercise is cosmetic, intended to gain time for the 500,000 Indian forces to complete their ethnic-cleansing job in Kashmir.

This is established by New Delhi's March 21st clarification of its January 24 non-paper on Kashmir. The slight hope raised by the original vaguely-worded non-paper has been quashed by the latest communication declaring categorically that India views the state as an integral part of India and it sees no need to ascertain the will of the Kashmiris—which amounts to saying the core issue is not open to negotiation. This communication also exposes the self-serving nature of the non-paper-I's call for an agreement on the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control. (But not the whole country.) The new formulation tends to detract even from the Simla Agreement by talking of the "ultimate solution" instead of the "final status" of the state; and the real aim appears to be to convert the Line of Control into a bilateral border, which compromises Pakistan's traditional position. Oddly enough, India apparently seeks Pakistan's help in consolidating its imperial hold on the adjoining areas with its proposal for so called mutual cooperation in the prevention of any encouragement of any act detriment to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

India seems to conveniently forget that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control is being jeopardised—in fact breached—by India itself. Through its deployment of half a million troops equipped with the most lethal weaponry and the most callous use of it against unarmed civilians. The havoc caused by India's systematic genocide of Kashmiris has been documented meticulously by several human rights organisations. New Delhi's non-paper-I stresses the need to avoid "military exercises" in the vicinity of the Control Line. It forgets that Pakistan has never carried out any military exercises on its side of the Line; and that for the last four years, it is India that has actually been carrying out "live" military operation on its side of the Line, resulting in an estimated 100,000 casualties, including 30,000 killed.

If anything, it is Pakistan which should be calling upon India to pull out the additional forces it has inducted into the state since 1990 and restore the balance of forces between India and Pakistan as envisaged in the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire agreement of 1949. Pakistan, in fact, could charge India, before the UN Security Council, with flagrant breach of this international agreement. In any case, India ought to de-induct the additional forces to

restore the balance and to prove that it is sincere in its proposal for peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control.

Additionally, India should establish its bona fides in this regard by agreeing to strengthen the presence of the United Nations Military Observers' Group for India and Pakistan (UN-MOGIP) to enable it perform its mandatory job of monitoring the Control Line, where there has been recurrent shelling and air violations. The UN Observers should be enabled to patrol the Line on both sides of it; and also authorised to monitor the situation further inland on both sides of LOC. Additionally full and free access should be provided to UN agencies and international human rights organisations to all areas of Jammu and Kashmir to check grave human rights violations.

On the related issue of Siachin, there is no need for a repeat discussion on the principles of a settlement; they were all decided at the Defence Secretaries meeting in June 1989 when it was agreed that redeployment of troops must take place in accordance with the Simla Agreement which requires both sides to withdraw their forces to the positions obtaining in 1972. India's non-paper-2 seeks to repudiate that commitment and to that end, it contends that as agreed in November 1992, the two sides shall disengage from "authenticated" positions they are presently occupying and fall back to new positions since identified by India. Now, the Indian contention happens to be completely false; Pakistan never agreed to any authentication of currently-held positions; and there is no question of any fresh understanding on any fallback positions for the simple reason that India is required by the Simla agreement to vacate all positions that it was not occupying in 1972 and it certainly had no positions in Siachin or anywhere near it. There is no point in holding fresh talks to repudiate the earlier ones.

Five rounds of Indo-Pakistan talks on demarcation of the Sir Creek estuary (subject matter of non-paper-3) have ended in complete deadlock; the common-sense answer lies in now referring the issue to international arbitration. In the case of the Wullar Barrage built by India on river Jhelum in violation of the Indus Basin International Treaty, (non-paper-4) technical and legal experts have first to thrash out the issue in all its bearings before the Foreign Secretaries can usefully apply their minds to it. Again, while Pakistan would like even to further extend the scope of the Joint Commission by including environmental protection, combating natural disasters and strengthening SAARC in its purview the prevailing level of mutual bitterness between the two countries, especially in the context of carnage in Kashmir, makes the present time most inappropriate for a meeting. (India's non- paper-5).

Likewise, it is the deadly deadlock over the core issue of Kashmir which imperils Pakistan's security and consequently inhibits any fruitful dialogue on nuclear non-proliferation. On principle, Islamabad subscribes fervently to non-proliferation and would welcome any agreement intended to insulate population centres against any nuclear attack, vide non- paper-6. But we are averse to make-believe declarations. We are not convinced of the genuineness of the Indian proposal for protection of population centres when we find India pulling back its forces from its eastern frontier and concentrating them against Pakistan's major cities, when we see India so deploying its missiles on the border that our major population centres are the designed targets, or when we notice India acquiring and arming deep-penetration attack aircraft to hit deeper into our territory.

India's proposal for a "no-first-strike" commitment also sounds hollow when India is so determinedly refusing to enter into any regional non-proliferation arrangement. For years, Pakistan has been offering: simultaneous ratification of NPT, simultaneous acceptance of IAEA full-scope safeguards, mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities, a bilateral nuclear test ban treaty and establishment of a nuclear free zone in South Asia. Each one of these proposals has been rejected by India. More recently, Pakistan has proposed a conference of India, Pakistan, Russia, China and the United States, to evolve regional arrangements for nuclear non-proliferation and South Asian security; but this too has not been accepted by India.

It is India's duplicity and its habit of wriggling out of solemn commitments by legalistic sophistry or fancy interpretations which make many Pakistanis sceptical about any dialogue with India. While CIA has offered US Congress irrefutable evidence of India's capability of deploying a nuclear arsenal and of even evolving a hydrogen bomb, New Delhi still insists on calling its 1974 nuclear bomb a "peaceful explosion". While ordering two more squadrons of the latest MiG-29's to reinforce its existing lineup of 750 most modern warplanes, new Delhi opposes the US release of 38 F-16s to Pakistan that it has already paid for on grounds that it will upset the balance of power in the subcontinent. While the UN Security Council, the US State Department, India's own founding fathers (Nehru) and Lord Mountbatten papers all agree on describing Kashmir as disputed territory whose future is still to be determined by its people, India insists on claiming it as an integral part of the Indian Union and dismissing the massive popular uprising in Kashmir as no more than "terrorist infiltration by a neighbour," and is employing 500,000 fully armed soldiers to decimate the Kashmiris much the same way the Yugoslav Serbs are ethnic-cleansing the Bosnian Muslims.

The conclusion is inescapable: The fake talks on "non-issues" that India seeks to hold at the foreign secretaries-level are designed to hoodwink the world into believing that India is applying its mind to resolving the Kashmir crisis, whereas the Indian strategy is to gain an uninterrupted opportunity to "end the Kashmir problem by ending the Kashmiris. Pakistan must beware of the trap.

Editorial Accuses India of Seeking Nuclear Arms Race

BK0705123994 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "India's nuclear battle-cry"]

[Text] In total disregard of the need for establishing peace in the region and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people inhabiting it, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has once again said that his country would not give up the nuclear option "under any circumstances". Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, he categorically stated that India will not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) nor will it accept any "regional arrangement" on the issue under pressure from any quarter. He also reiterated his Government's commitment not to cap the missile programme. Referring to the just concluded official talks in London with the United States, the Indian Prime Minister said that no special significance should be attached to them as these would have no impact on the country's nuclear policy.

Statements emanating from India at the highest level indicate that it is determined to unleash a nuclear arms race in South Asia. At present India operates eight nuclear reactors and has atomic research centres all over the country. In addition, six more reactors are under construction and another 14 have been planned for the next 20 years. There are confirmed reports that at the moment India possesses 40 to 60 nuclear warheads. Through its Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme initiated in 1983, India has developed five missile systems. It has successfully tested its intermediate range surface-to-surface missile, Agni, which has a range of 2500 kilometres which would ultimately be increased to 5000 kilometres. To keep all this hidden from the outside world, questions about India's nuclear programme cannot be asked in its Parliament under the Nuclear Energy act of 1962.

It is only because of the threat posed by its bigger neighbour that Pakistan was forced to embark on its own nuclear programme. However, in the interest of peace in the region and to save it from a nuclear holocaust, Pakistan has offered seven different proposals to curb regional proliferation. All of these have been rejected by India on the pretext that it believes only in global nuclear disarmament. This is only a self-serving stance and an excuse for not signing the NPT. In an address to the Indian Defence Policy Forum in 1992, former US Secretary of Defence, Robert McNamara asserted that "by its refusal to accept the NPT, India is isolating itself and is now seen as a major barrier to further progress toward reduction of the nuclear danger". In January 1993, the Washington Post wrote: "There is growing consensus that it makes little sense to penalise Pakistan but not India, a far bigger power whose indigenous development of both nuclear and ballistic missile capacity continues unabated. In her address at the Command and Staff College, Quetta the other day, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto highlighted the same point: "The nuclear and missile threat to Pakistan is real and immediate. It is, therefore unrealistic and illogical to expect Pakistan to take unilateral steps. Sanity and reality demands regional nuclear solution". It is unfortunate that by pursuing a policy of benign neglect towards India's nuclear Programme, the West has complicated the region's nuclear tangle. The international community has to play its role in this connection and exert pressure on New Delhi to see reason and accept the imperative of a regional approach to dealing with the nuclear issue—a potential threat to the existence of more than a billion people in the sub continent.

Former ISI Chief Proposes 'Exploding' Nuclear Device

BK0505130494 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 May 94 p 12

[Excerpt] Islamabad, May 4—"Exploding a nuclear device will take the nation out of the present state of dejection and bring our friends like China and Iran closer to us".

This was stated by an exponent of pan-Islamism, former chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen (Retd) [retired] Hamid Gul while addressing a select gathering of the citizens here on Wednesday. The meeting was organised by the Citizens Action Committee.

The former ISI chief, who played a pivotal role during the Afghan Jehad observed that now Pakistan should go nuclear. He said this could infuse a new life in the nation, which according to him was facing a decadence like situation. He said the Pressler Amendment is aimed at cutting off aid to a country which is following the nuclear option whereas it is not against those nations that have already acquired the nuclear capability.

Advocating his case Gen Hamid Gul said by doing so Pakistan will stand at par with India when new nominations for the nuclear club may take place in 1995. Besides, he said, our best friends like China and Iran which consider us fast becoming American surrogate will come closer to us.

The former ISI chief said a wave of re-awakening had run throughout the Islamic world. The secular world was falling apart and the secular philosophy, he said, had failed to hold the nations together. He said only Islam provided a basis for movement and mobilisation with a forward looking philosophy while secularism has no future.

He said not the governments but the people of the Islamic world are coming closer for a common cause. [passage omitted]

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